Chapter 1 – It seems it was a peaceful death

This chapter is a repost. In order to improve readability of the novel and going by the fact the original blog has been inactive it was moved to this blog. You can find the original chapter post here.

Author Note: It's recommended to skim over this in a carefree manner.

"Pan-pa-ka-pan, Congratulations! You have been given the right to reincarnate into a different world! This is such a super rare thing to happen, one could compare it to winning a lottery! You're happy, right? Right? Yeah, it's been decided that you are, indeed, happy! Everyone, prepare the crackers!" (???)

"Eh?" (Renya)

All of a sudden, something appeared in front of me. A little girl with blonde hair that was excited for some reason. A bunch of beautiful blonde girls with a pairs of white wings surrounded me.

Those blonde girls were, for some reason, wearing an unpleasant expression. In their hands, they were holding a somewhat larger version of crackers used for parties. They took a stance in unison.

"Do it!" (???)

On the little girl's order, they pulled the strings simultaneously.

I don't know what the hell these blonde girls are, yet, these crackers were making a thunderous roar as they shook the ground. I fall on my butt.

"Cracker released! Music Squad, Equip Instruments! The Clapping and Singing Squad, begin preparations!" (???)

Despite the unpleasant look on the girl's faces, the little girl gave the orders with high tension.

Half of the girls took musical instruments out of nowhere while the rest of them began to clap their hands together and brought them to their chest in preparation to sing together.

"*This is really dangerous*!" Renya's brain alerted him.

Even those crackers had already caused such a big roar. Now, there would be musical instruments and songs? What in the world would happen!?

Renya decided that his eardrums and heart couldn't take anymore. He's now thinking of how to get out of this situation.

"Song of celebration, ready…huh…nugya- !?" (???)

Without a second thought, Renya got up and mercilessly launched a perfect front kick to the little girl shouting off commands.

The little girl never thought that she would get attacked. She took the kick to the face and began rolling on the ground. (TL Note : LOL !)

After it had happened, he began to realize that all of the girls were taking orders from this little girl. This meant that she was the commander.

Of course, he looked around because nobody should have missed what he did just now. Yet, no one was moving.

Renya thought that these girls might not be able to move without orders. However, he then saw a number of girls smirking and laughing. Some of them even gave him a thumbs up gesture. He immediately changed his previous thoughts.

It seems that they are reluctantly following orders. There were even some girls that were secretly waving their hands at him.

“W-what are you doing!?” (???)

The little girl on the floor began to slowly stand as she protested to him.

Though Renya didn’t have any intention to point it out, seeing a girl that was wearing only a *Kantoui* (simple cloth with only 1 hole for head) tumbling on the floor, he averted his eyes as he attempted to not see something that he must not see. (E Note: Could barely find anything on the net for Kantoui.)

“You’re so noisy ! The crackers earlier were already as noisy as hell! If you lot began singing now, my eardrums would break, you know!?” (Renya)

“That’s not a reason to kick a little girl’s face!” (???)

“I don’t discriminate against age!” (Renya)

“I’m a girl you know!?” (???)

“My principle is that girls and boys are equal!” (Renya)

Renya declared that proudly. There was a slight commotion, yet, there was also some applause coming from the crowd.

“Why are you guys applauding him!?” (???)

The little girl yelled at the other girls, yet, the girls somehow averted their faces in unison, as if they had already practiced it in advance.

While Renya was questioning what kind of group was before him, the girl turned towards Renya once again.

“Geez, I chose the wrong personnel.” (???)

“What are you talking about? Or rather, where am I?” (Renya)

As far I can see, this place is flooded with little girls that have wings. When I look up, I don’t see a blue sky. It’s like a thin white light that’s spread across the horizon.

“This is the land of god.” (???)

“Oh~” (Renya)

Renya responded lazily towards the little girl with the thin chest. (ED: Washboard.)

“Kunugi Renya-san, you have died.” (???)

“Heh~” (Renya)

“You died at the age of 94 from old age. Cool, right? Long life, Banzai!” (???)

Though she had declared it so, Renya still couldn’t believe it. According to the little girl, he died at the age of 94 not because of illness or accident, but because he had reached his maximum lifespan. He had no recollection of such a thing.

“Well, because it’s troublesome to face an old man, I set your state back to when you were 18 years old.” (???)

Hearing this, a small blue vein popped up on Renya’s head.

“Oi…” (Renya)

“In fact, using a Loli appearance with those mature words, I find that gap moe or whatever its called disgusting. I’d prefer to call you Loli-Baba or Shota-Jiji.” (???) (ED: A cute kid that uses word phrasing specific to the elderly, or people of a previous Era. Trust me, in the Japanese language it is a very obvious trait.)

“Oi, cut it out.” (Renya)

Certainly, it’s dangerous to speak whatever I want to this little girl. I tried to interrupt her, but it seems that this girl has no intention of stopping.

“I don’t really care but, keep such talk about your disposition towards minorities in the trash.” (???)

“So why’d you bring it up?”

Renya’s tsukkomi was ignored.

“Back to the topic, you have been given the right to be reincarnated into a different world.” (???)

“Don’t need it.” (Renya)

The little girl froze at such an unexpected line. Ignoring the girl’s reaction, Renya continued.

“Somehow, it sounds like a pain. Furthermore, it seems exaggerated. Not to mention, I feel like you are trying to hide something from me.” (Renya)

“I-I wonder what are you talking about…” (???)

Renya continues to apply pressure in his voice as the little girl averted her gaze.

“If you say that my previous life was a peaceful death, theres supposed to be no lingering feelings or regrets. Well, as I can’t recall anything, it’s not like I can attest to that. It might be that after I got sent to heaven or hell, I might just forget it, right? Though I don’t really want to be sent to hell.” (Renya)

“T-That’s right! If you refuse this, you will be sent to hell!” (???)

Of course, it was apparent that this was just made up on the spot. It was as suspicious as hell. Following this, Renya began to inquire.

“What are my charges?” (Renya)

“Charges!? E–Ehm… Ah! That’s right! Murder!” (???)

“Hm, I died peacefully due to old age, right? Does that mean I didn’t get caught until the day I died?” (Renya) (ED:

Wait, so you can only be judged by your sins in the afterlife if the legal system caught you?!)

The little girl's face became strained.

"A-Ah, you died in jail!" (???)

"Oh, I surprisingly committed a crime at such an old age, huh? Even if it wasn't at that age, how many people did I kill? Since, I apparently died due to old age in prison. So? How many did i kill?" (Renya)

"A-Ah, that's right! People deprive others of life to maintain their own! Basically, you're one of those sinners!" (???)

"If that was the case, then that means there's no Heaven? Are all forms of the afterlife just Hell? Those who practice religion sure are insane." (Renya)

"I-If they were vegetarian…" (???)

"I see, so you're one of those people who think that vegetation doesn't have life. Or are you one of those people that arbitrarily place a large or small value on each life? Are you one of those that think it's bad to eat whales because they have intelligence, but still eat cows and pigs hypocritically? Are you one of those people that can make friends with dolphins, yet can't be friends with chickens?" (Renya) (E Note: Damn it. Translating this was annoying…)

Renya thought that none of them were correct though. Even though Renya stopped there, if his opponent wanted to object again, he could still continue this pointless discussion. Most likely, in this girl's head, the value of life was equivalent to a spec of dust.

"I'm sorry. I will apologize so, would you please listen to my explanation?" (???)

The girl prostrated herself in a dogeza. It was unknown whether the girl was aware of what Renya was thinking or not. (E Note: Renya's an S…kudos.)

Applause came from the girls.

"Ugh, why do you guys clap when I meet such a terrible fate!?" (???)

The little girl stood up as all the other girls purposefully avoided her gaze. She was glaring at the girls while grinding her teeth. Following this, Renya made a small cough, making the little girl look at him again.

"I will listen properly since you intend to clearly explain it. After that, whether I agree or not is a different matter, though." (Renya)

"Mu, I guess it's fine. First, I am the being recognized as God. These erotic girls are what you call Angels." (God)

sfx: Booing (E Note: Boos, jeers, complaints, etc.)

As jeers filled the crowd, the little girl simply gave a single glare, causing the commotion to die down.

"You girls are definitely erotic! Who were the ones that tried to make kids with humans and performed yuri to the extent that they somehow got a virgin pregnant, huh!?" (God) (ED: She's saying Jesus Christ is a lesbian love child…? Kick her again, Renya.)

Upon hearing the little girl's voice, quite a number of the girls looked off into the distance with an expression that said "I know nothing".

"Seriously, you girls're only good at complaining…" (God)

“That doesn’t matter. Please continue the explanation.” (Renya)

“Eh ? No tsukkomi this time?” (God)

Suprisingly, the little girl said that.

“Well, people are free to name themselves anyway. Then, which god are you? Jesus? Buddha? (TL Note : It actually written as 南無なんちゃら， Let’s assume it’s buddha.) Or, pay-back (TL Note : やったらやり返せ i don’t know X_x) god ? ” (Renya) (E Note: Not sure either. Any suggestions would be appreciated.)

“Please stop. Don’t compare me to something that humans created.” (God)

The girl frowned.

“I am me. No one else. I am the one who creates and controls all.” (God)

“Wow, so cool. Now then, why did Kami-sama bother to appear before one person ?” (Renya)

As Renya spoke with a sarcastically humble tone, the little girl frowned…

“You didn’t believe me right ? It doesn’t matter though. I have a clear reason to show myself in front of you. That’s because I have a request for you.” (God)

“Does it have anything to do with the right of reincarnating into another world?” (Renya)

“That was the request itself. Basically, I want you to go to that world.” (God)

The little girl said thus while quietly looking up at Renya.

Next Chapter –>

Chapter 2 – It seems I shouldn't have asked

This chapter is a repost. In order to improve readability of the novel and going by the fact the original blog has been inactive it was moved to this blog. You can find the original chapter post here.

"Again, why me?" (Renya)

Renya voiced an all too obvious question. The little girl spoke to Renya who had thought that there was no way he would be the cliched 'chosen one'.

"That's because you are the chosen one!" (God)

"Ah?" (Renya)

"I'm sorry. I lied. I apologize so please don't hit me." (God)

Seeing Renya clenching his fist with a grim expression, the little girl bowed her head and apologized.

A small applause could be heard…

"You bastards! You got a problem with me!?" (God)

Everyone heavily nodded in unison in response to the screaming girl.

I guess their frustrations accumulated into a grudge, huh? (Renya)

He saw the little girl crumble to her knees.

"Ugh, fine. I will explain the rest so you guys please go somewhere else. The conversation is not making any progress and my heart…is probably broken…" (God) (TL Note : Hug the God ! *hugs*) (E Note: As opposed to Renya being an S…is the god an M?) (ED: She's been misbehaving since the beginning of time. She brought it on herself.)

This god seems to pretty much have a weak mental constitution, eh ? (Renya)

The girls smiled at Renya and waved while their bodies began disappearing. The sight of people fading away made Renya doubt whether this was reality.

「: You have acquired the .」

Eh? What the hell is this? (Renya)

Renya tilted his head as he saw the little girl stand up and turn towards him.

"Ehm, I lied about you being the chosen one. However, not everything was a lie. Not everyone can pass through the wall between worlds." (God)

"So, basically, I can go through those walls?" (Renya)

“Yes. Since you have trained your body to a certain extent, there seems to be nothing wrong with you for the most part. In addition, you don’t seem to have any lingering feelings towards your world.”

Since I died peacefully, isn’t it obvious that I don’t have any lingering feelings? (Renya)

For now, Renya decided to remain silent.

“So, there technically isn’t any problem with me, right?” (Renya)

As Renya had kicked this God a little earlier, she shook her head.

“Even though the kick was unexpected, it was nothing much. Atheists are not rare. I’m not even agitated by the fact that you kicked my little girl figure away. Equality of genders is not a bad thing either.” (God)

“For future reference, can I ask what is bad then?” (Renya)

“I’m pretty sure its pillaging, raiding, and killing. Well, basically anyway.” (God)

“Fuahahahahahahahaha” (God)

A creepy laugh could be heard. Renya began shivering.

It would be perfect if she had white paint on her face. (Renya)

“What are you trying to accomplish by sending me to another world?” (Renya)

“Nothing at all~” (God)

As soon she declared that, Renya knocked her head. There was quite the resonance. The girl squealed as she put her hands on her head.

“Don’t play with the dead if you don’t have any business!” (Renya)

“You sure are fast to declare yourself as a deadman~” (God)

“I have lived for almost a century. Isn’t that long enough? Though I don’t have any memory of it, I think it’s enough.” (Renya)

“Though I think telling a person that just finished one life to go live another is cruel, can you listen to my request? It would make me happy, you know.” (God)

“I thought you didn’t have any business with me?” (Renya)

When Renya asked the suddenly humble little girl, she nodded. Seeing this, Renya could only clench his fist. Realizing this, the girl speak again.

“I have a clear reason to ask you to go, you know? That’s why, please stop hitting me!” (God)

“What do you mean? I want answers.” (Renya)

“I want you to go because the world you are designated to go to is low on resources.” (God)

Though she did explain it somewhat, Renya did not understand anything. Thus, he continued to press her.

It can’t be helped, huh? (God)

“That was really the reason though, ugh, how should I say this…” (God)

With a troubled expression, the girl spread both of Renya's hands in front of him. Suddenly, a transparent window appeared before his eyes. Renya couldn't hide his shock. The window in front of him was projecting some kind of map.

At least, it was a map which Renya had never seen. As it's scale was reduced, Renya couldn't understand anything. There were four lands that formed the shape of a four-leaf clover. The intersection of the four lands respectively created areas in the north, west, east, and south.

"If the map's upper part is north, then..but.." (Renya)

"Relax, I have translated this to match your knowledge in your previous world. Make no mistake, the map's upper part is north." (God)

"Is that so? But, this is the first time I've seen this kind of geography. What map is this ?" (Renya)

"It's the continent of Eldra. It's a unique continent in the world that I want Renya-san to go to. As for the size, that clover thing could probably be compared to the size of Eurasia." (God) (TL Note : It was written エールドラ)

"What!?" (Renya)

Having said that, Renya once again looked at the map.

(TL Note : From this point on, i will refer to our God (Little Girl) as Chibi, since it's troublesome to write little girl all the time.)

If what the chibi said was true, then this is a huge continent that is 2 times larger than Eurasia in both height and length.

"Ridiculous." (Renya)

"It is the truth. There's no need to be overwhelmed." (God)

"To see a planet that is ridiculously larger than earth.. How many are there!?" (Renya)

"It's not a planet though." (God)

"What!?" (Renya)

She opened another window. There, Renya saw a waterfall that was massive in both height and length. He had never seen this before. He could see the large body of water clearly.

"Can you see this? In this world, at the ends of the worlds, there's always a waterfall that falls into nothingness." (God)

As the Chibi said thus with a serious face, Renya stood dumbfounded for a straight 5 minutes.

"What era is this?" (Renya)

"Even though it seems like an Earth envisioned by old-fashioned theorists, this is the reality of this world. If you go beyond the waterfall and fall down, you will disappear. There's no turning back." (God)

"Who is the fool that created this world!?" (Renya)

In reality, this was Renya's genuine opinion. This time, the girl responded with a loud voice.

“This God in front of you! Who the hell are you calling stupid!?” (God)

“Aren’t you stupid, though? What did you eat that made you want to create such a thing!?” (Renya)

“Isn’t it obvious that it’s because the sea is surrounding the continent!?” (God)

“What the hell is this world? Is there even a re-circulation of water here!?” (Renya)

“Of course, there’s no way that exists you idiot! Don’t lump this world’s logic together with yours!” (God)

“The lack of resources is because of this stupid system, right!?” (Renya)

It might be because of the harsh intonation, or because she was called stupid, or possibly because Renya had previously used violence on her, the chibi realized her defeat as her face grew pale.

“Anyway, because there’s no re-circulation, there’s gotta be some kind of power that keeps supplying it, right ? Even if there’s gotta be some water that evaporated after it fell into that place. If this continues forever, without such a water supply, won’t it eventually dry up?” (Renya)

“T-T-There’s no way such a thing will happen, you know?” (God)

“Oi, chibi. Look me in the eyes and say it clearly.” (Renya)

“I-I Swear! T-That’s really not it! I admit that I used power pointlessly, but this and the request are not related! I swear to God!” (God) (TL Note : Right.. A god swear to god ~_~) (E Note: Does that mean gods have gods? Do those gods have gods? Is there an entire hierarchy of omnipotent beings out there?)

Oi, aren’t you the God? Is what Renya wanted to tsukkomi, yet, refrained from doing so.

Renya stared at the chibi, however, the chibi completely averted her gaze.

“Oi.” (Renya)

“I will continue the explanation. Eldra, as you can see, is divided into five regions.” (God) (TL Note : The fifth is the center)

The chibi continued the explanation as loud as possible. He could have continued to apply pressure, however, seeing the chibi had already been cornered, he urged himself to let her continue.

“North, south, east, west, and… Center, huh..” (Renya)

“That’s right, North, south, east, and west is controlled by a singular race. These are the Humans, Elves, Demi-humans, and Dragon Races respectively.”

“And the center ?” (Renya)

“Demon Race.” (God) (TL Note : Magic Race are demons) (E Note: Kanji is Magic Race. Read as Demon Race.)

According to the chibi’s explanation, the continent was divided into five.

“Well, I can’t give too detailed an explanation. This world is basically turning into a harsh environment. To put it simply, war often breaks out.” (God)

Amazed by the chibi, Renya tried to ask something obvious.

“Why?” (Renya)

“Though I thought that the related parties didn’t realize this, there are 5 warlords in each race. They seem to be starting wars to kill some time.” (God)

“S-T-O-P-T-H-E-M!” (Renya)

“W-Wait! Don’t strangle me! My neck! Why are you aiming precisely at my arteries!? I’ll die! I’ll die!!!” (God)

On the edge of death from being strangled, the chibi fell away from Renya. Not willing to let go, Renya chased the chibi. Depending on her answer, he was planning on breaking her neck.

By the way, the difference is, he wasn’t trying to cut off her respiratory system (choke her). He was trying to break her neck.

“Don’t fuck with me! Because of you, wars are breaking out!” (Renya)

“I understand what you are saying, but I can’t do anything!” (God)

The girl was desperately trying to escape, her expression full of fear.

“You are God, right?” (Renya)

“Since I already transferred the management rights of this world, it’s impossible! Though I can take it back forcefully, there’s a consequence, you know? So, basically-” (God)

While trying to protect her neck, she kept running a little while longer. Following this, she stood still while thinking and said.

“If I can make 80% of the continent sink, then I might be able to do something about it.” (God)

“Denied.” (Renya)

“Then, I can’t do anything. Although, if we can make the warlords there return the management rights, then it would be a different story.”(God)

Having declared so, Renya stopped his chase.

“Because of them, the death and life cycle in this world has stopped.” (God)

“What do you mean? “(Renya)

After confirming that Renya had paused his pursuit, the chibi turned around and continued her explanation.

“Although souls that died normally from disease or old age are fine, what about those who did not meet a normal end. Those who got captured and killed on the battlefield, those who got slashed into pieces, those who got eaten by dragons, those who died in raids by goblins or orcs. Do you think those souls will want to return to such an environment?” (God)

“Well, that’d probably be impossible.” (Renya)

“That’s right. Thus, souls that reject such a world begin to accumulate.” (God)

The chibi spoke with an exasperated expression.

Even if it came from the neck that Renya had tried to break a short while ago, somehow, he could sympathize with her.

“I tried to persuade the warlords, presenting the benefits the rejected souls possess to their world. I had tried plenty of things, all of which were fruitless endeavors.” (God)

“So you’ve at least tried something, huh?” (Renya)

“Yeah, once. However, not only was it fruitless, I was blamed by the inhabitants. I, at the very least, planned to allow myself to get strangled.” (God)

Because I was from another world, she denied to get strangled by me, huh…(Renya)

Renya urged her to continue.

“That’s why, because they get reincarnated to another world, this world’s resources began to decline.” (God)

“Isn’t it fine to destroy such a world?” (Renya)

Not only do the warlords have no intention of properly managing things, the population continues to drop in such an environment. Even if it was left alone, such a world would probably get destroyed soon anyway. (Renya)

“That might be okay, but thinking about the souls that will be lost, it cannot be allowed to be destroyed.” (God)

Even if we can recreate it again, the angels and I will die from exhaustion. (God)

“It’s technically impossible. There will be lot of souls that got reincarnated without my knowing. The number of souls that reject reincarnation into the other world are too scarce.” (God) (ED: All the souls would leave that world for better ones and there wouldn’t be enough left for a proper population after recreation.)

Souls with more than a certain quality consume the resources of the world that they are originally made from. Following this, the souls use even more of this world’s resources in order to immigrate to another. Those souls that got reincarnated to another world are slightly but surely reducing this world’s resources.

“That was quite a complex story, huh…” (Renya) (ED: Sounds legit.)

“Yes, we need to somehow persuade the lords, and then get the world’s order back to normal. It’s very time-consuming. Basically, what I’m asking is-” (God)

“’I want you to go there to stall for time and preserve the world’s resources.’ Am I right?” (Renya)

“If it was only bringing me resources, I wouldn’t need to ask you. However, just like how a file attached to an email and the file itself are completely different things, you’ll have to attach something to someone’s soul.” (God)

“Something like a file attachment software?” (Renya)

“It might be worthy to create it if there’s someone to take it, but I can’t since the warlords don’t understand and have denied my interference.” (God)

Even if you can send something, it’s meaningless if there’s no one to receive it. If they realized that their world is going to be destroyed, things would have been different. But they don’t. They only think that my interference is unnecessary. (God)

God spoke with a wry smile.

“Can you explain the current situation?” (Renya)

“I got rejected.” (God)

“It’s obvious that it’s the warlords’ fault.” (Renya)

“There wasn’t even a reply.” (God) (ED: It feels like lolikami-sama has burned a lot of bridges.)

Watching the chibi hang her head, Renya sighed.

If he didn’t hear such a story, he could just ignore their troubles. However, now that he knew, he couldn’t pretend that it wasn’t his problem. Actually, Renya didn’t want to get involved with this sort of trouble, yet, he had decided.

“I got it. Let’s team up.” (Renya)

Author Note:

1 Chapter is about 10 sheets of paper or so my guide tells me.

There may be many typographical errors and omissions but, if you were to point them out, I would be very grateful.

<– Previous Chapter

Next Chapter –>

Chapter 3 – It seems I got a cheat

This chapter is a repost. In order to improve readability of the novel and going by the fact the original blog has been inactive it was moved to this blog. You can find the original chapter post here.

Author Note:

If we're talking about someone from another world, we're talking about cheats.

You could say that if there is no cheat, the story can't start.

"I'm truly sorry to involve you in this predicament. I truly appreciate it, Renya-san." (God)

The chibi bowed her head deeply.

In times like this, it was hard to directly look at the chibi. Renya felt really bad since he didn't mean any harm.

"It's fine already so please raise your head." (Renya)

There was a little bit of impatience mixed in Renya's words. Hearing this, the little girl slowly raised her head.

"I'm truly sorry to cause trouble for you. If you were to reject this, I would have to look for another compatible person." (God)

As this appeared to be a significant matter, Renya's interest was piqued as he began to ask.

"By the way, what're the chances of finding a compatible person ?" (Renya)

"1 in 5,630,000,000 people." (God) (TL Note : That's it. LUK Stats is over 9999) (E Note: About 0.00000000002 %. Good luck with that, Kami-sama…)

Renya swallowed upon hearing thus. From the number itself, it seemed like the chances were just one person in the entire earth.

"Then, how will you send me there? Don't tell me, reincarnation?" (Renya)

Renya said thus as he implied that he wanted to be spared from such a fate. Even though Renya agreed to help, reincarnating into a baby again felt like too much of a pain. Also, if he were to become a baby with this mental state, he would die from embarrassment.

"If I were to use the reincarnation system, there's a chance that the warlord there could repel it with their management right. So, I won't be reincarnating you. Since you will return here again if you die, we have to plan before the next reincarnation." (God)

Even if he was sent, it didn't mean that he only had one chance. Renya felt relieved as it looked like it wouldn't take too much time.

“For the family register stuff, since there are tons of lost people that inhabit this world, there should be no problem.” (God)

“What do you mean?” (Renya)

“There’s quite a number of people that came from other worlds there, you know? Since the world itself is not stable, there are lots of occurrences where people get transferred there.“ (God)

“What happened to the requirement of having a good aptitude that you mention earlier!?” (Renya)

“It will be troublesome if you failed to cross it, you know.” (God) (ED: In other words, the others were random events, and Renya is planned. And those are two completely separate systems.)

The chibi lifted her little finger and made another window appear in order to continue her explanation.

“Since once you are there, you will have to live there for a few decades. I, the God, will be giving you a present!” (God)

Hearing such a strange intonation, Renya hit the God’s head.

“Oh yeah, you’re a god, aren’t you ?” (Renya)

“D-O-N-T-F-O-R-G-E-T-I-T! That’s the most important thing, you know!?” (God)

“Since you are wearing such an outfit, you are far from divine.” (Renya)

The chibi began to pout upon hearing this. Renya began to feel that he shouldn’t have said it. Then, the chibi muttered.

“I thought that I could lure his lust with this gorgeous feminine body, but to think that it would have the opposite effect…” (God)

“Don’t make assumptions!” (Renya)

Receiving Renya’s cold gaze, the girl clenched her fist and spoke.
“It can’t be helped, huh… Humans can never see beauty beyond superficial appearance. If an Ikemen hugged a girl, they would hardly raise any problems. Yet, when it comes to a geek or a nerd, they would deem it as sexual harassment, right? That’s reality.” (God)

“Even though that’s true, that’s not the point! You said you’ll give me a gift, right? You’ll give me something, right?” (Renya)

Since it seems that it would diverge into a very unappealing topic, Renya interrupted her. Following this, the girl clapped her hands.

“Oh, that’s right! To start with, my first gift to you is, !” (God)

“I will be forever young…” (Renya) (E Note: Really, ELYSION? Really?)

“That is . ” (God)

From Renya’s point of view, even though she said such a thing, it felt hard to believe.

“It is ! You, the 94 years old gramps, will be able to live in a spanking new 18 year-old body thanks to my power!” (God)

“Even if I got sent in my 94 year-old body, shouldn’t it fine ? I would still come back here again when I die anyway.” (Renya)

Since he was only going for the resources, he didn’t feel the need to be able to live a long time over there.

Renya thought that it would be more efficient this way.

“Besides, I don’t have anything else to do there, right?” (Renya)

“T-That’s true.. But that world is one with magic and swords, you know! You can build fame easily as an adventurer! Not to mention, you could also create a Harem! Isn’t that every guy’s dream!? Why are you saying such a line that smells like a rotting geezer!?” (God) (TL Note : You know your stuff loligami 8) (E Note: Yep. Although let’s hope he doesn’t become a Loli Killer…)

“Well, I am a geezer though.” (Renya)

Chibi is dumbounded.

“Oh? Eh… Hm…” (God)

While running her hand in the window she just opened, she began to think.

Although it was slightly transparent, Renya couldn’t see what was written there. After a while, the chibi found what she had been searching for and, with sparkling eyes, turned to Renya.

“Actually, Renya-san, in that world, there’s a lot of delicious food that’s not on Earth, you know ?” (God) (TL Note : HIIRO !? IS THAT YOU !?) (E Note: If it is, I’ll bet he’ll get trapped by food again.)

“Hoh?” (Renya)

It seems that the chibi was looking for information about my life to see whether she could persuade me. Since I don’t have any memories, it seems that somehow, I can’t resist the persuasion. I guess it means that I was pretty much a food-lover, huh ? (Renya)

“Of course, there’s cheap delicious food and there’s also food that is expensive and super delicious. To buy such a food, it would be impossible for a 94 year-old gramps to earn the money.” (God)

“Fine, fine. I’ll go with the new body. But, I won’t forgive any more secrets. What are you planning?” (Renya)

“I assume that it will take several decades for the scattered Resources to bind with Renya-san’s soul. They are not something that can just be easily obtained. Since resources won’t diffuse themselves into corpses, this God would be very grateful if Renya-san could live a long life.” (God)

Surprisingly, the chibi easily told the truth. It looks like she has realized that lying would not be beneficial.

“Eh…that’s not really a gift, ain’t that something necessary ?” (Renya)

“Ugh… even though you just thanked me for making you 18 again…” (God)

She said such cunning words with teary eyes.

“Since you said you would give me a gift, at least give me an appropriate one. In order to live and do my duty, isn’t that a given?” (Renya)

“Ugh, then, what kind of gift do you want?” (God)

Renya skillfully reversed God's plan and began to ask for favors.

"My gift will be, ." (God)

"Gold." (Renya)

Renya immediately responded with seriousness.

"And then, an absolutely safe home, and great combat ability." (Renya)

(TL Note : This guy.. Definitely the embodiment of GREED !) (E Note: Hiirofumi?)

"Give me a break. Before the resources are lost, the world would be destroyed due to the imbalance." (God)

The chibi started to kneel in a dogeza, and of course, Renya somehow felt bad.

"Though it would be cool if you could do it, I guess it's impossible, huh…" (Renya)

"It's not that I can't make a mountain of gold, it's just that the world's balance would break. Attaining power to destroy a country alone would obviously have a negative outcome. And if I made such a home, the duty would be…" (God)

"Well, I just wanted to try and say it once. Don't cry." (Renya)

The girl quickly stands up. (TL Note : She cried because she already promised.)

"For now, since I will have a young body, I want ." (Renya)

Since Renya didn't want to waste any more time in this awkwardness, he tried to come up with something essential.

"O-Oh, huh?" (God)

"Since it seems I was a drinker, I think I will need a strong stomach and liver." (Renya)

"I see. Alcohol resistance and Gluttony right?" (God) (TL Note : NAOFUMI DETECTED !) (E Note: Pretty sure Ren had Gluttony but…Hiirenfumi?)

"Also, since I need to make money, I would like some sort of ability. Since it's a world with magic and swords, fights are inevitable, right? " (Renya)

"That's right. You need some combat ability…" (God)

The girl took something like a memo out of nowhere and wrote down all of Renya's wishes.
Renya thought it was strange for her to use such a thing as she could make a window appear out of nowhere.
Following this, Renya continued.

"Also, I would like to try to make some things. For some reason, I'm interested in blacksmithing." (Renya)

"Fumu, fumu. Renya was a dan in Kendo in your previous life by the way." (God)

"Is that so? I can't remember." (Renya)

"Your body should remember it though." (God)

"I also want to try magic. I won't be asking to be omnipotent, but I would like to excel in one area." (Renya)

"I see. By the way, does Renya-san prefer power or control?" (God)

“Of course, control.” (Renya)

There was once a proverb, it’s useless no matter how powerful one is if they didn’t hit their mark.

“Okay, I will add that as a reference.” (God)

“Also, I won’t be asking to become the strongest at once, but I would like to be able to grow as I train.” (Renya)

“I see. Do you have any wish regarding your looks?” (God)

After asking, the girl continues.

“Since your body is in a coffin back at Earth, I’ll be creating a new body for you. That’s why.” (God)

“I see.” (Renya)

“I can change it up as much as you like. I can create it so that every girl will fall for you at first sight, and every boy’s heart would somehow skip a beat near you. Leave it to me!” (God)

“Can I even change my gender? “(Renya)

“Since I’m creating it from scratch, yes.” (God)

Renya knew that he was a guy. Even though he had no such memory to support it, even from the name, it was hard to think that it belonged to a girl. Renya was thinking which one would be better. The person himself knew that there was no turning back with this. After thinking for a while, he decided. (ED: Original Editor used gender neutral pronouns here, all of a sudden, but that’s garbage so I threw them out for readability.)

“Make it a male. Average looks are fine as long as it’s not ugly.” (Renya)

“Ok! The appearance will be decent, at the level that it’s not repulsive to look at.” (God) (TL Note : LOL !)

After writing everything in the memo, she ripped it out and began to roll it up . From her small lips, she breathed onto the memo, causing it to burn furiously.

Renya wondered why she burned a memo she had written. Then, just like when the angels faded away, a message appeared before him.

「INFO> : You have acquired | | | | | | | | | | | | !」

(TL Note : ＜報告：「健康体」「超回復」「酒精耐性」「健啖」「鍛冶」「剣術」「体術」「魔術（適性：風）」「無詠唱」「高速充填」「術式並列起動」「成長限界突 破」「鑑定」「異世界言語」を取得しました＞ Please help with the naming)

(E Note: With Judgement, Alternative Trans are: , ,)

“What’s this? “ (Renya)

“Think of it as something like a skill in games… But, now that I think of it, a 94 year-old gramps wouldn’t have played games, huh..” (God)

“It’s alright. I know that much.” (Renya)

Even though he didn’t have any memory of playing a game, he understood the chibi’s analogy.

“Is that so? I guess I don’t have to explain it. For now, I have granted Renya-san skills that Renya-san wished for. Please remember them and use them. Also, I can’t promise the skills will always be active. I’ll permit you to use a hotline to me once a day. Though, please understand that I can’t always answer. You should be fine if you imagine using the skill in your head.” (God)

“Is that so? Then, when will I leave?” (Renya)

“We can go as soon as you are prepared.” (God)

Beside the chibi, a glowing portal appeared. Renya somehow understood that he needed to enter that in order to proceed.

“Then, I’ll be going. I wonder how many years will pass before our next meeting.” (Renya)

“If you suck, it will be soon. If you are average, a few decades. If you’re good, maybe we won’t meet again.” (God)

“I don’t think immortality exists there, though. Well, if I like that world, maybe I’ll spare some time to look for it.” (Renya)

“Although I can’t answer that, it’s probably worth searching for it.” (God)

Doesn’t that mean it exists ? (Renya)

While thinking thus, Renya continued to walk towards the portal before stopping to take a glance at the chibi again.

“Well, here I go.” (Renya)

“Once again, we apologize for the trouble. We wish you a good life.” (God)

While saying that, the girl bowed.

When Renya passed through the gate, words appeared his head.

「: You have acquired !」

Thus, Renya started his second life that he didn’t exactly ask for. He walked towards the new world.

Author Note: To preserve my writing, I’ll drop things bit by bit. (E Note: Hard to translate but this is the basic message.)

<– Previous Chapter Next Chapter –>

Chapter 3.5 – It seems to be Interlude 1

This chapter is a repost. In order to improve readability of the novel and going by the fact the original blog has been inactive it was moved to this blog. You can find the original chapter post here.

Author Note: The scene that occurred after the protagonist left.

“Looks like he’s gone.”(God)

The chibi stood alone, watching him disappear through the portal.

“A God’s body is not something I can just do anything with. If I were really omnipotent, I wouldn’t need to ask him to go…”(God)

“Is there still no response from those managers there?” (Angel) (ED: The Managers are the five Warlords with the management rights.)

The blonde girl with wings from a little while ago had appeared behind the little girl.

“Nothing at all. Even though I tried to say that I don’t mean to take over by force, they wouldn’t believe me.”(God)

She said while shrugging.

The blonde girl shook her head.

“Is it not because of your position?“(Angel)

“Is that so? Would you like to try taking on my responsibilities?”(God)

“Please do not joke. One such as I am not worthy.” (Angel)

As the girl said thus while lowering her head, the God nodded in response.

“Good. That’s a wise answer. It’s troublesome and doesn’t pose any benefits. If there’s anyone that can replace me, I would gladly give it to them.” (God)

“You have an infinite lifespan, in addition to near omnipotent power. However, now you wish to return to a lifespan of less-than 100, as well as your great knowledge and experience ?”(Angel)

The girl said thus with a surprised expression.

“Is it weird?” (God)

“I cannot comprehend it.”(Angel)

“How long have you lived?” (God)

“According to my memory, a minimum of about 1000 years” (Angel)

Seeing the girl trying to remember, the chibi gave a blank look.

“Then I guess you wouldn’t be able to understand.” (God)

“Is that so?” (Angel)

“I have lived for 11,260,000,000 years. I have remembered everything that has occurred in great detail. It’s agonizing.”(God)

God looked up at the girl as she heaved a deep sigh. The girl who had only lived for 1000 years couldn’t even begin to fathom the depth of her experiences.

“I’m tired of it. All I do is create, destroy and repeat. It’s all just a system. If that was all it means to be a God, it’s laughable..” (God)

“That’s…” (Angel)

The Girl tried to console God, yet couldn’t find the words.. She realized that she had only a experience puny bit of God’s wisdom.

“Well, sometimes fun things still happen. Getting kicked in the face is quite the experience. I can still feel it.” (God)

God suddenly changed the topic. It was obvious that she was trying to change the atmosphere. Realizing this, the Angel decided to go with the flow.

“How many times have you experienced it?” (Angel)

“This is the first time I’ve gotten kicked by a human. If we’re talking about angels, it’s probably about once a millennium.” (god)

“That means you’ve been kicked more than 10 million times, yes?” (Angel)

“Oi, that’s cruel! I’m the creator you know?” (God)

If she wanted to get kicked, wasn’t it alright?

Though she had come just to meet a human, she attempted to mobilize 80% of the angels. Leaving aside the junior-classed angels, the associate-level angels would want to start kicking her too.

“Leaving that aside, let’s select some tools for Renya-san. Leaving him nothing would be cruel.” (God)

“Well, since it’s you, shouldn’t you have finished the catalog ?” (Angel)

“Well, yeah. Wanna see?” (God)

Even though she said that she would pick it, after the selection ended, they hoped that what she sent were simple things. God asked if the girl wanted to look at the catalog because its contents were already set, being permanent and unchangeable. The girl opened a window.

“It’s surprisingly normal.” (Angel)

The contents included food, temporary armor, and weapons. It seemed that, for someone as special as him, there was nothing extraordinary.

“The truth is, even though I already tried to lend him a weapon from the land of god, the junior angels kept making a fuss. Even though I told them that due to the nature of the request, he needed weapons to a certain extent.” (God)

“After Renya-sama’s gone, a problem has already arisen, huh.” (Angel)

As far as the angel knew, Renya believed that Artifacts were creations of god. However, this is wrong. Those artifacts are just objects that the warlords drop, or something that people create by chance. A weapon truly created by God would be something that could easily surpass human imagination. If such a thing was lost in that world, it wouldn't be strange for as disaster to occur. The angels' disapproval was undoubtedly correct. While thinking that, the Angel paused. (ED: Confusing distinction! Just assume it's like "Artifact" as it is used in games, where the item has unique and special powers… that eventually get eclipsed by other equipment anyway, and that a God-Class item could split the ocean between continents with a single swing. That is the distinction here.)

"Excuse me, this is?" (Angel)

"It's something that Renya-san used in the previous world. It's light and strong, yet, it can't kill. Since Renya-san has learnt Kendo, he should be able to use it."(God)

"Have you shown this to the Associate Angels?" (Angel)

The Chibi looked at the angel with a blank face.

"I did show it to them, though?" (God)

"Have you explained what it is to them as well?" (Angel)

"They just skimmed over it as they said "Well, isn't it fine if it's just this much?""(God)

God quickly checked the catalog again. Maybe there was something that the angels had missed. Maybe they said that because they only skimmed it and didn't check it at all. Apparently, this angel was uninformed about the Shinai. That's why she asked for an explanation.

"This Shinai is unbreakable, right?" (Angel)

"That's right. Since normal ones will break right away." (God)

Actually, this was something that the Chibi chose because she didn't know what else to give as the angels had denied all of her suggestions. Then, she thought about the meaning about the bamboo in the Shinai. It's light and can at least be used to exchange blows. However, since she thought it would break in a single hit, she bestowed it with high resistance. That's why she had made it unbreakable. She thought that if it was unbreakable, he could at least use it to fight against a sword. She also thought that Shinais always come with a Bougu, since that was Kendo itself. As such, she thought it would be okay to give him that much. However, this was apparently a mistake.

"I just want to confirm this with you, but you do know what happens when an unbreakable object collides with something breakable, yes?" (Angels)

"That's… Ah!" (God)

The girl raised her voice in realization.

"As far I can remember, if an unbreakable object and something breakable collide, the breakable object would be destroyed?" (God)

"That is correct. We can conclude that he is now boasting the capabilities of destroy anything in that world. Is this not a problem!?" (Angel)

"That means, that the Shinai can destroy castles, dragons, Mithril, Orihalcon, and immaterial things like barriers, black magic, and seals in a single hit!?" (God)

"That's not on the level of a mere weapon anymore. In addition, it cannot be modified anymore, you know?" (Angel)

“It’s not like I can’t change it. It’s just that I can’t contact the warlords there. This will have such a dynamic effect, Argh! I’m an idiot!” (God)

The little girl crouched and held her head while trembling. This was because she realized that she may have caused a very big disaster. She began to think again and said,

“To think that he would have such a cool Shinai!” (God)

“That’s not the problem!” (Angel)

The angel rolled her skirt and kicked the chibi’s head like a soccer ball..

In terms of brute strength, there was a big difference between the human Renya and this angel.

She hit the chibi’s head, making her body dance in the air before hitting the floor.

“T-To think that the second time came this fast…” (God)

While crawling, she touched her head and returned to the Angel.

“Even though he can’t destroy iron and mithril as if it were sugar, if it were to hit the human body or meat, it would get pulverized, yes ? What kind of ‘low attack weapon’ is that?” (Angel)

“I see, since it’s unbreakable, it’s like a very strong rod.” (God)

“Furthermore, since magic doesn’t have a physical mass, it will be destroyed in an instant!” (Angel)

“I see. Even if magic is strong, as it has little physical resistance, it can be easily destroyed. In other words, Magic is useless against him, huh…” (God)

“For your information, there is nothing unbreakable in that world, you know?” (Angel)

Even if you searched the whole world, there was nothing like that there. That fact alone would already make that Shinai priceless. However, the chibi once again let out another stupid thought.

“As it’s bluntness was its predominantly defining attribute, I never dreamed that it would become such a dangerous weapon.” (God)

“That bluntness is the only good thing about it!” (Angel)

As it was unbreakable, it was an object that could destroy anything. Thinking about it in such a light was already scary.

“Well, it’s already happened so it’s useless to think about it. However, I would like you to forgive me because I have made it into the shape of Shinai due to my aesthetic sense.” (God)

“Argh, whatever. Do as you like, I’m already fed up with it.” (Angel)

“Whatever happens, it’s something that I created! I must at least rebuild it into something worthy!” (God)

“Argh, do whatever you like! This super idiot God!” (Angel)

Today, the self-proclaimed God was kicked for the third time, her body dancing through the air.

Author Note: After several chapters of investment, I wonder if impressions will come (*glance*)

<– Previous Chapter

Next Chapter –>

Nidoume no Jinsei wo Isekai de - Chapter 4: It seems that I Immediately got into Trouble

Man. This is equivalent to one of Konjiki's longer chapters.
Either way, I'm liking this protag so far. We'll see how long it stays that way.

Source: http://ncode.syosetu.com/n6332bx/5/

Chapter 4: It seems that I Immediately got into Trouble

Author Note: Although the setting of another world having two suns are used often...
Doesn't the idea of two light sources seem dazzling?

Renya: 「Ah, this is one of those, isn't it. Saying that 'This is truly not your original world', they provide me with a gimmick in order to make me understand it quickly and effectively. This might be one of those great things.」

After diving into the gate of light that appeared beside the little girl proclaiming herself as god, Renya, after practically no time lag, noticed himself standing somewhere in a forest, near a path that seemed to be well-tread on.

As the sides of the road became a deep forest, one could only see trees. However, above the road, the sky was clearly visible. Renya realized that where he was underneath that blue sky was a completely different place to the 94 years that he had spent his life in. This was instantly understood as two suns emitted a blinding light as they shone.

As the reality of there being two suns in the sky resulted in Renya receiving a large shock, as the color of the sky was the same blue color as the one from his memory, it simultaneously gave Renya a slight sense of relief.

As the color of the sky in a different world could equally have a chance of being, say, purple, either Renya would accept the reality before his eyes, or his spirit would become abnormal. Such an unwelcomed chicken race between which of the two would occur first may have been planted.

Thinking such thoughts, Renya began to survey his surroundings. Even though Renya was ignorant about tree species, he noticed that things such as the tree's hue would not change so drastically with his original world.

It had been determined that to some extent, Renya's common sense was still valid. Learning such was something significant for Renya.

Although his memory had been cleanly and refreshingly initialized, the experience ingrained into his body and his common sense was not so easily discarded.

On his body were short, clean white clothes and pants as well as modest shoes. He noticed that he was not wearing any kind of armaments.

Speaking of which, I didn't check how dangerous the designated world was.
While he thought thus, Renya contemplated whether it was quite dangerous for him to remain in his current attire in the middle of the woods. As he wondered thus, the word ＜Inventory＞ appeared before him.

As his line of sight selected it, a semi-transparent window, similar to the one with the world map shown to him by the

little girl, opened before Renya's eyes.

The window was partitioned by 15 squares both horizontally and vertically. Within the mass, images that resembled small icons were being displayed.
Among them, Renya touched a money-like icon with his fingertip, causing information to flow into his head.

＜Currency: 10 Gold Coins＞

It appeared to be as it seemed. It was money.

He somehow understood that this was a parting gift from God. Wondering what the other icons contained, Renya continued to check through each of them one by one.

Cycling through his inventory window, Renya discovered that he had 10 gold coins, 12 packages of portable food, 6 Basic Wound Medication, 3 rolls of bandages, 1 Shinai(1), 1 set of leather armor, and 1 canteen which he could fill with water.

Although I can understand the leather armor, why a Shinai?
Wondering thus, Renya touched the icon, causing the description to flow into his head.

＜Shinai: Grade 10 Artifact | Indestructible Attribute＞

Wondering what in the world an artifact was, Renya tilted his neck.

An answer immediately came.

＜INFO: Help Initiated. An Artifact is a lost handicraft. It refers to something whose quality cannot be intentionally created by the hand of man. All artifacts have their classification become Grade 10＞

Renya admired his body as it had become so convenient.

Apparently, such a mere Shinai boasted performance that would make it seem as if belonged to the realm of the gods.

Wondering whether the leather armor was the same, he tried to touch it.

＜Leather Armor: Grade 2 | Commercially Available＞

As far as he could tell, this was a very ordinary item.

It would've been nice if it had the indestructible attribute. Then I'd be invincible.
As Renya thought thus disappointedly, he lightly double tapped the inventory icon. As the item retrieval dialogue box emerged, Renya unhesitatingly chose the two equipment items.

As the Leather Armor icon disappeared from the inventory, Renya's body slightly began to glow.

When the light settled, armor that protected the body appeared above his clothes. In addition, gloves that covered his arm from his elbow to his wrists were equipped onto Renya's body.

This seems to be a set.

Although Renya was dissatisfied due to his head and lower being unprotected, he convinced himself that, since it was something given to him, he could not expect too much as he began to equip the Shinai.

There was no spin on this one. This was without a doubt the Shinai that existed in Renya's knowledge.

It was 3 foot 8 inches[2] long, this length being referred to as Sanpachi. Although it was a size that was usually used by large people, the Shinai was considerably longer than average. Even so, it was light and could be swung around easily enough. Renya thought that it would probably be more useful if it was longer.

Even so, as Renya held it, he felt unsatisfied with the explanation for some reason. Following this, another message flowed into his head.

＜INFO: Help Initiated. Although I was supposed to give you a bladed weapon, as the weapons attributes were all Grade 10, the Angels rejected every single one. As you had experience with Kendo when you were alive, I thought you'd skilled at it, thus it was decided that the Shinai is something that would be passed to you. From God ＞

Rather than a Help function, isn't this just a normal mail?[3]
Although Renya suspected thus, after reading it again, he somehow consented that it was a description due to the wording.

In the first place, the question of why there was a Shinai in the kingdom of God still remained.

As Renya knew he would not receive an answer right away, he pushed it out of his mind. In exchange, his mind plunged into the matter of what he should do from now.

The Little Girl, that is to say God, gave him a request, which he was supposed to fulfill as he was sent to this time in another world.

Although he wasn't sure why, he was apparently granted a body in order to leisurely spend about a few decades wandering around, spreading things that would become resources in order to clear his mission.

As such, it was necessary for him to gather important items in order for him to live the next several decades as fun and as carefree as possible.

Renya: 「First things first, unless I find some human habitat, I won't be able to get started.」

Although he was shown a map of the world before he was sent, Renya was forcibly sent to this location. The person in question had no idea where he was. For the time being, however, as there was a road, Renya determined that no matter which way he followed it, he would undoubtedly be lead to civilization if he single-mindedly advanced.

If there was a problem, it would be the point of which way should he advance in order to reach civilization sooner.

Looking at his inventory, even if Renya minimized his consumption, he believed that he would barely last a few days.

Above all, as his water supply was only one bottle, it was quite severe.

If he restricted this water for drinking only, then he would be unable to use the water for other purposes. For example, there would be no water for him to wash his hands and face or wipe his body.

For Renya who was inherently Japanese, this was an extremely dire predicament.

Renya: 「I guess there's no choice but to put up with it. I kinda wanted to be dropped in a more convenient place. She's completely thoughtless, the Loli bitch...」

It was probable that he was dropped down in a remote location due to concerns about witnesses. Although this was easily imaginable, Renya still couldn't stop curses coming out of his mouth.

After cursing at the little girl for a while, Renya decided that it couldn't be helped as he regained self control.

Following this, he picked up an appropriate twig on the ground and stood it upright on the road.

Renya: 「I'll entrust it Bootaoshi[(4)], although this is a pretty overused saying, huh.」

As he would be walking in the direction the stick fell in, his fate would be decided by the gods.

However, as Renya had just recently witnessed the little girl that claimed to be god, he suddenly became very reluctant to hand his fate over to said gods as he began to reconsider his actions.

Renya: 「Now then, I wonder which way it will fall.」

As Renya tried to remove his hand from the stick, it happened.

Within the silence of the surroundings, Renya's ears captured the faint voices of people.

While he braced himself, he turned towards the sound. The stick that his hand released fell in the opposite direction that Renya was facing.

It was the road that Renya had chosen. Between the two, the result was that he was to go in the opposite direction of the voices.

Renya: 「What are the chances…[(5)]」

If he were to act upon his initial decision, he would begin to walk in the direction that the stick had fallen in.

Yet, the sound that Renya's ears caught was almost undoubtedly the scream of people.

Although heading to see what had happened would not cause him to lose much time, Renya still hesitated.

The fact that he heard screams meant that there was trouble in that direction.

If he were to ignore this completely and walk off in the other direction, Renya thought that this would be synonymous with running away.

However, as Renya had just came to this world, he did not have any sort of relationships. He had no reason, nor duty to take action in response to such screams.

Even so, after a short while, Renya started to run towards the direction the scream was raised.

If asked why he took such action, even Renya himself had no answer. However, should he be forced to give an explanation, rather than it being a question of good and bad, it was because the scream was proof that someone was there

If there was someone there, he would be able to ask them for directions to the nearest city.

If worst comes to worst, he would just shut his eyes to what had occurred at that spot.

As he thought to this extent, Renya decided to head towards the direction of the voice.

Upon his decision, the time for him to transfer his intention into action was quite fast.

As he armed his Shinai in his left hand, Renya took off with light feet as he focused his eyes.

Regardless of him having no memory, and regardless of his body being rejuvenated thanks to the little girl, Renya was a soul that was largely content with his death at the age of 94.

From the remaining information implanted somewhere in his memory, Renya was told that he has never run so lightly and quickly in his lifetime.

Even being able to experience this, Renya contemplated whether or not there was some meaning in answering God's request.

As he was thankful towards his body that did not run out of breath, Renya ran as he was able to immediately discern the current situation that caused the scream he had heard.

Upon viewing the scene from a long distance, he saw several men with dark skin in leather armor. He saw a woman with blonde hair wearing a priest's(6) outfit. Behind said woman was a female protecting her back while brandishing a long sword. The female had long black hair, done up in a ponytail. She also had metal plates covering key body parts. The female was dressed in an attire referred to as partial armor(7).

Upon seeing the situation, Renya revised his thoughts immediately.

This is not a scene where I can just avert my eyes.

If he were to truthfully state it, he could not remain on the sidelines when faced with such a situation. Of course, Renya didn't voice this.

Who cares about them?
Such thoughts crossed Renya's mind. At such a rarely seen situation, no one would be in a position to blame him if he were to carefully observe. Such thoughts naturally came to him.

As Renya himself had died at age 94, he thought that it would be alright to just walk between life and death just a little longer.

The figure of Renya approaching at a considerable velocity seemed to be immediately noticed by the people on the site.

Although the surrounding men grew slightly wary, their expressions immediately became slack as they scoffed.

The surrounded women had slightly smiled, yet, their expressions immediately turned to those of disappointment.

Although Renya headed towards the site, it suddenly turned into a pity-fest for Renya. However, as it was too late to change direction, Renya continued running.

Renya could understand their expressions to some extent.

Concerning the men, they were vigilant for a moment as they thought their enemies may have increased. Yet, upon seeing Renya, they soon determined that he was not enough of a threat.

On the other hand, the women saw a sign of help. However, upon seeing Renya, they presumed that the chance of them being saved was low.

As he was in poor leather armor and held a sword made of bamboo, Renya comforted himself by saying that such thoughts were unavoidable.

Renya noticed that there were more pressing issues than such a thing. He came to a halt a short distance from the men and women, lightly clearing his throat as he raised his voice.

Renya: 「E-e~to(8). Can this be resolved by discussion, huh?」

Man in Black (Armor): 「What d'ya want? Dressed like that, are ya a fugitive soldier that fled from the battlefield?」

To Renya, who had spoken in a nervous voice, one of the men answered.

What Renya had been worried about, was whether or not conversation in another world could be established.

Among the various skills that Renya obtained from the little girl, he remembered that Another World's Language was one of them. Even so, he was still anxious as the fact that he had yet to actually use it remained.

In the event that he couldn't use another world's language, as Renya did not know a single otherworldly word, it would look like he would be unable to establish conversations in this world. Thus, he spoke quite nervously. However, to his surprise, the meaning of Renya's words seemed to have reached them.

This was because the words that came out of his mouth, were words that Renya had never heard before.

Even so, as he was able to learn and use the language, he was able to discern and understand what the other person was saying.

In contrast, as Renya attempted to pronounce words from his previous world, he was surprised as he realized they wouldn't come out of his mouth.

It seems that this effect was most likely caused by the skill Another World's Language.

Whether this was convenient or not, Renya could not properly judge at this time. Yet, for the time being, as he did not have to concern himself with his word use, he felt that this was a good result.

Man: 「Oi[(9)], the hell? Shutting up like that, did ya wet your pants?」

Renya had silently sank into deep thought after he had burst in with tremendous momentum. The men, determining that Renya had become intimidated by the surrounding situation, all raised rowdy laughter.

Renya: 「Ah~, well~, about that. Wait a bit.」

Not giving a damn about such laughter, Renya began to observe the women who were surrounded.

Both were women of peerless beauty that would never be seen in his original world.

The woman in the priest outfit had gently wavy hair with large, green eyes that emitted a slightly droopy feeling.

What covered her whole body was an outfit based on black, very similar to the clothing worn by those with the occupation of Sisters in Renya's original world. However, as the clothes had no adornments, it felt like gentlemen's desires were stuffed into it. The expression of 'hour-glass body'[(10)] came straight to mind when looking at her body, and the interior of the clothes seemed to strain the body as it was quite tight.

No matter how you look at that, isn't it about one or two sizes off?
Renya couldn't help but think as such.

The woman who protected the 'sister' from behind was also a beauty.

Her sharp eyes were slightly angled with black pupils. She wore her jet black, long hair on a high position atop of her head.

Compared to the figure of the beauty behind her, she was inferior in terms of volume. Yet, she possessed features that richly stood out, even if a bit rough. She wore a something similar to a red hakama[(11)] with a black shirt. She was also dressed in iron-like shoulder pads and chest armor, along with her gloves.

His line of sight shifted towards the men.

However, Renya immediately stopped observing.

Looking at these men is boring.
Renya muttered thus under his breath. Either way, the men uniformly had dark skin and, although they had a better build compared to Renya, he confirmed that they only equipped leather armor similar to his own.

Yet, oddly enough, Renya did not feel that they were armed.

All of them were barehanded.

Although they're six of them, wouldn't the armed, black-haired woman be able to do something about this?
Although Renya had thought thus, the following words from the woman served to deepen Renya's concerns.

Hakama Woman: 「I don't know who you are, but run away! These guys are uncontrollable!」

Renya: 「Eh, is that so?」

Hakama Woman: 「These guys are soldiers of the Mercenary Kingdom! Don't worry about us! Run away!」

Although such an explanation obviously made sense to the woman, as Renya had no grasp on this world's common sense, he could not follow such reasoning at all.

Man: 「Oi, you. We're busy. As there'd be no meaning in taking those pitiful clothes off your back, if you just turn around now, I'll pretend you were never here.」

Renya: 「Nn~(12), although that'd be fine, do you really think that I'd be such a person who'd just turn away from here right now?」

To help complete strangers without understanding their circumstances. Although it seemed that he resembled a protagonist from a story, Renya thought that this conduct was more synonymous with a dim-witted Hero.

Renya: 「Ah~, right. I guess you guys'd be fools with lewd minds.」

Man: 「The hell's this guy saying? You're jealous so you're trying to mingle? If you want, I'll give you a shot?」

As the men frivolously laughed, the women averted their gaze.

It'd be a pain if they looked over this way.
As Renya thought such, he spoke the fatal words towards the men.

Renya: 「What do you think you can do with such broken rods? Won't they break the moment you touch them?(13)」

Man: 「Ah!?」

Oh dear, what should I do?
Renya's previous expression that seemed to express thus, completely changed as it was replaced with a shade of murderous intent.

Although Renya would claim that he spoke such words on impulse, in actuality, he emitted those words as they had uttered something that he could not forgive.

Man: 「I dare you to say that again!」

Renya: 「What's your problem…? Wouldn't such pitiful rods break after a single touch?」

Suddenly, Renya's voice had chilled. Although the men dominated him in numbers, Renya simply repeated the words he had previously spoken.

Renya gripped his Shinai in silence as he pointed it towards the man.

Man: 「The hell's this, you bastard!?」

Renya: 「I'll let grab it. I'll thoroughly beat you to a pulp afterwards so prepare yourself.」

As Renya fired of those words coldly, the men answered in laughter.

Man: 「Are you a fucking idiot!? As if that stick would be a match for us!? And you said that you'll let us grab it? Do you really think you can beat us up after we're done with you?」

(Another) Man: 「Has this guy lost it?」

Man: 「Being stupid is amusing! Alright, I'll grab it so start regretting your stupidity.」

The man the tip of the Shinai was pointing to clasped it casually with his right hand.

Man: 「There you go, I grabbed it!」

Perhaps the man was going to forcefully pull the Shinai he was holding in order to launch an attack on Renya.

However, Renya's actions exceeded the man's expectations.

The moment the Shinai was grasped, Renya quickly twisted the handle with both hands.

In the first place, the handle of the Shinai is thicker than its tip.

Renya and the man were holding the thick and thin side of the Shinai respectively. Even if both sides exerted force strongly onto the Shinai, it was natural that the advantage would belong to the one of the thicker side.

As long as there was no compelling difference in force, the Shinai would continue to rotate.

As the Shinai began to rotate within the man's hand, Renya immediately pulled it backwards.

What Renya had performed was simply twisting and pulling the Shinai at the same time. However, that was enough to be able to rip the Shinai from the man's grasp.

Man: 「Eh?」

It was likely that the man had considerable confidence in his strength.

Yet, as he had the Shinai easily taken away from him, he could not comprehend the spectacle that had occurred before his eyes.

Renya was not such a kind person as to wait for the man's understanding to catch up with reality.

As he withdrew the Shinai, Renya sharply and thoroughly thrust the Shinai towards the man's throat.

The tip of the Shinai rushed forward as it possessed the weight force of one person. As the man stood stunned, the Shinai pierced the man's throat, sending him flying backwards.

As the surrounding onlookers could only stare without comprehending what had just occurred, Renya remained wary

as he poised his stance. His low voice resonated.

Renya: 「This is a sword, not a stick. It doesn't matter what it's made out of.」

Man: 「Bastard, this...」

The man who kept calling Renya bastard was clutching his stomach and choking on his drool while rolling on the ground.

They had not understood at all.

The fact was, they were within Renya's killing range.

Renya rushed towards the remaining, immobile men that were taken aback.

As he counterattacked, Renya's Shinai tore through space at a speed that did not even give them a chance to defend. Between the eyebrows, the throat, the solar plexus, the bottom of the nose. As he pierced these vital points cleanly and quickly, it did not take much time for all of the men's eyes to be covered in white.

Renya: 「I'm not sure if you can even hear me now.」

As he maintained unrelaxed alertness, Renya spoke as he placed the Shinai neatly on his left hip.

Renya: 「Even though it looks like this, it is a weapon. This has the proper capabilities to kill. The reason the thrust techniques is prohibited up until a certain age is not just for show.」

Whether it was in fencing or Kendo, the move possessing the most killing power is the thrust technique.

Even though Japanese swords would have their sharpness grow dull after slicing several people, the thrust was so powerful that it could kill dozens of people without its power falling.

Even if such power was translated to a Shinai, it still had the hidden potential to kill a man during a match.

Renya: 「For the most part, I was wondering how you guys were gonna try and hit me but, to think there were actually idiots who would fight barehanded against someone with a light, non-bladed weapon. Before belittling people, you guys would be better off if you just thought a little.」

As Renya thought they would not hear him, he spat out these words.

Renya's thrusts were not of the average technique. As he thrust, he slightly twisted the Shinai, increasing the feeling of penetration force.

In addition, although Renya was unaware, he was targeting vital points of the opponent that were capable of being destroyed. When hit with the Shinai, which possessed the indestructible attribute, no matter how much the opponent trained, it would be worthless as the Shinai possessed the power to unilaterally destroy anything that was breakable.

I wonder how many died?
As Renya noticed he might have committed the act of murder, he noticed that his feelings were completely undisturbed.

Renya: 「...I might just wither up in a place like this.」

Without even batting an eye, Renya overlooked the six men. Renya simply shrugged his shoulders as he thought his way of thinking was amusing.

Author Note:
The paragraph about the Shinai was knowledge learnt a long time ago when I learned Kendo.
If the tip of the Shinai had a splinter when doing this, the palm would be covered in blood...

The Thrust Technique is really dangerous.
It's so dangerous that one is prohibited to use it until high school.

Although there are brutes that gleefully pick up the technique as soon as they become a high school student...the reality is, they use it in places without armor, though…

Note:

(Disclaimer: I am describing the terms used above as best as I can describe them. You're probably better off checking with Google. With that said, please don't quote me as I am not a professional.)

1. ^ Shinai: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shinai
2. ^ TL Note: Why? I use the metric system so why are you doing this to me? Doesn't Japan use the metric system?
3. ^ TL Note: Mail here is in katakana. This use of mail in Japanese often denotes an email or text message. I left it as is because the others don't really fit the context well (not that mail does either).
4. ^ Baotaoshi: Literally means Pole Collapse.
5. ^ TL Note: The phrase used here is Yori ni mo yotte | よりにもよって.
6. ^ TL Note: This is misleading. The Japanese used for Priest Clothes is Sofuku | 僧服.
7. ^ TL Note: Literally Partitioned Armor | 部分鎧. Any better translations are welcome.
8. ^ Eto: 'Um'
9. ^ Oi: 'Hey'
10. ^ TL Note: The Phrase used here is bonkyubon | ぼんきゅぼん.
11. ^ Hakama: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hakama
12. ^ Nn: 'Hmm'
13. ^ TL Note: No. You are not misreading it. He is actually talking about the subject of their 'performance'.

Chapter 5 – It seems I got to know someone

This chapter is a repost. In order to improve readability of the novel and going by the fact the original blog has been inactive it was moved to this blog. You can find the original chapter post here.

Renya again investigates the defeated men in the surroundings.

It would be troublesome if they were pretending to be dead and retaliated while he was distracted, but the fallen men had their consciousness completely stolen. As such, there was no indication that the men would be waking up any time soon.

The first and the middle two men, whose throats he had hit, had the bones in their neck broken and the necks cut, although Reyna did not feel guilty, because he was somewhat in a rush.

“I wonder if there is a concept of something like a legitimate defense in this world?”

“Ano…”*

Upon hearing this voice, he turned around to see the priestess coming closer together with the armored woman.

Upon a closer look, it looked like the two people would be best described as beautiful girls rather than beautiful women, according to their ages.

In comparison to the girl wearing armor, who gave off an air* of outright caution, the girl wearing priest’s clothes showed her sincerity by bowing deeply to Renya.

“Thank you for saving us.”

“Well it might have been unnecessary,” says Renya, as he looked towards the girl wearing armor.

When I jumped in to help, from the fact that I was told to run away, it might have been possible that in that situation that girl alone might have been able to do something.

The unruly words said by these guys had been missing the subject, that ‘mine’ and ‘yours ‘will greatly vary the story.
　[こいつらは手に負えないという言葉には主語が抜けていたが、「私の」と「お前の」とでは大分話が変わってくる] (E: Neither of us really know what to do with this sentence.)

Did she guess Renya’s thoughts? Nevertheless, remaining cautious, the girl wearing armor did so only lightly, but still bowed her head.

“I am thankful for your help, I am afraid that I alone would not have been able to do anything.”

”Even if there were 6 guys, these guys were barehanded, you know.”

All of the enemies had been defeated in a completely one-sided battle, hence Renya posed such a question. The girl wearing armor looked slightly surprised and answered with a smile.

“Do you not know about the soldiers of the Mercenary Kingdom? These guys are experts in fighting with bare hands. They can defeat armed soldiers and experts in grappling.”

It does not seem like it. While thinking this, Renya drops his gaze towards the fallen men.

Certainly, the body had been fairly disciplined, but you would not think that they would have been able to fight equally with properly trained and armed soldiers. But, if the residents of this world think so, perhaps they have some means to fight. I wonder.

A challenging expert barehanded solider. Thinking this, Renya was amazed, and to a degree, the air of caution faded from the girl wearing armor.

“You are a somewhat strange person.”

“It can be helped if you are cautious; I am… Oh, yes, someone who you might call a wanderer.”

If identified as such, somehow one might be able to understand his circumstances, thought Renya while remembering what the little girl had said. The expressions on the faces of the two changed from being surprised to interested.

“So, a wanderer? I have heard of lost people, before but it’s my first time meeting one.”

“If you are a wanderer, certainly it’s not unreasonable for you to not know about the mercenary kingdom.”

“More importantly than convincing you, I am called Kunugi Renya.”

Relaxing his mind that the little girl did not lie, Renya gave his name to the two girls who were easily convinced with the situation. Panicking a little, the two girls lowered their heads.

“Sorry for the delay, I am Monk apprentice Rona Chevalier.” [TN: Louis’s daughter??] (E: Must… make… ALCOHOL JOKE)

“Swordsman apprentice, Zion Femme Fatale. (シオン・ファム・ファタールと言う) Is Kunugi-dono alright with you?”

“Uh… my name is Renya, without the -dono, Renya is fine. For the time being, shall we change the location? Because four of these guys are still alive, and I have no idea when they will wake up.”

With serious faces, the two girls in an undertone were mumbling, “Ren ‘Nya? Lenya? Re re…… nuya?” While saying these things repeatedly and attempting to pronounce his name, the two immediately nodded to Renya proposal.

”That’s right, let’s head out towards the forest at once.”

”What do we do with these guys.”

“It’s alright with the two dead guys, but is it alright to leave the 4 who were unconscious?” Renya questioned, and Rona carelessly answered,

“In this forest, even if they were left for just 10 minutes, they won’t have any life left.”

“This place is the Eastern Continent’s Miasmatic Forest’s westernmost part. It is a treasure-trove of monsters, and this is still a shallow location. People do not know this, but plants that eat people also grow here.”

What! That’s scary, Renya thought. Was it really okay, even if hearing this from the two people who, without even glancing at the fallen men, started walking? Somehow, Renya felt intimidated knowing that they were going to die, and that one wrong move and he would be the one laying there. He pressed his hands together to pray for their souls.

“Wanderer Renya-san, how long has it been since you came here?”

While walking, I replied promptly to Rona.

“Only just now.”

“So you just came here? That’s amazing, you know.”

Even when showered with words of admiration, Renya had no idea what was so amazing. While he thought this, he watched the backs of the people in front of him and hurried to catch up.

Zion turned her head around and gave a compliment.

“’Normally when lost people come here, it’s mostly out of confusion. But to defeat to defeat soldiers who had been trained in movements and such, that point is what’s amazing,’ is what ‘Ro’ is saying.”

“Ro?”

“People who are close to me call me as such.”

Rona told me while smiling..

“I see; so Rona-san and Zion-san, why are you in such a place?”

Predictably not using the nickname, Renya inquired of Rona who had a surprised look.

“Ara, after listening that much, you still call me by that name.”

“I am not so arrogant that I would call a woman I just met by her nickname or without any honorifics.”

“Well, showing courtesy is an obvious thing to do. “

In contrast to Zion, who said this while nodding, Rona was somewhat disappointed.

Their state is far too defenseless. Is it really alright for these girls to be so fluttery (furafura) in a place like this? worried Renya.

“I have never quite been called by a guy in such a manner.”

“I do not want to die yet.”

Rona did not understand Renya’s answer. While Rona was tilting her head Zion who was besides her was impressed, and answered.

“A good guess.”

From what Renya saw, these two people had a pretty good relationship, which could be immediately seen from the fact that Zion called Rona by her nickname. Renya went further, and deduced that Zion had a specific standing of being Rona’s guardian.

For a while now, the one who has done most of the talking is Rona, while Zion only sometimes pipes up. Rona tries to roughly keep the conversion onto herself.

This is because Rona is less cautious, and would easily trust Renya on the basis that he had helped them, and as such didn’t have a dangerous personality. Zion, on the other hand, had a strong sense of caution and was still thinking of Renya as a suspicious person, or so he thought.

When thinking this way, the answer to who was the guardian and who was being protected will come naturally.

If he went on with a horribly saucy attitude, most likely what would await him would be a tough blow from Zion, was what Renya thought, hence the exchange earlier happened.

“Both of us belong to the Adventurer’s Guild of the Trident Principality. We came here at the request of the guild for the investigation and suppression of the goblin settlements.”

Perhaps knowing that Renya was a human who understood his own standing, Zion spoke on her own.

“We received a report that in a village of settlers just outside the forest, the damage caused by goblins had increased.”

Since he was catching words he had never heard before, Renya tried to organize things in his head.

It seems that Trident Principality is the name of a country somewhere, and also the place where these two people live.

Renya was not quite able to imagine the said words, “Adventurer’s Guild.” According to his knowledge, a guild was where people with similar profession gathered to form a mutual aid organization.

If this knowledge was applied, the organization has asked these two to work in the form of a request.

He had no idea what the word goblin referred to, but he had the help function he had gotten from God, which worked very conveniently to give him the information.

The Goblin is a humanoid monster standing tall at 1m, the color of its skin is a variable shade of green.

Has a very ugly appearance. Almost no hair. Although they live in groups of 20, they have no such thing as culture. Almost no females, usually breed by mating with females of other species with high fertility rate. Can mate with all humanoid species other than Elves. Are omnivores. Sometimes an individual with high Intelligence is born and may lead a population of up to 100. That said, it’s common knowledge for those who play games, yo.

by

That last line was unnecessary. The number of times I am going to hit you when we meet again has increased by 1, Renya vowed in his heart.

“I hope I am wrong, but a goblin is a monster that creates groups, right?”

“That is so, their individual combat is very low, but they become troublesome when they group together.”

“This investigation with only two people?”

That would be reckless, Renya thought.

Moreover, if you look at its description, one would know that this monster has a downright troublesome nature to abduct females of other species.

It was not a request that could be received by a party of only two females. That was what Renya thought. When he looked at them, their expressions were pale.

“Originally it was a party of 8.”

On hearing Zion's answer Renya performed simple calculation 8-2=6. In other words 6 people were somewhere else. Earlier the number of men he had crushed was 6 was it a coincidence.

"As you might have guessed, those people earlier had received the same request."

6 people, all of whom were soldiers from a country called the Mercenary Kingdom. Renya recalled what Zion had said.

In other words, from the start, the 6 people were comrades. This time, Zion's group had joined them because of the request.

In a dim forest away from human eyes, the people who were comrades were the men, while the two beautiful girls were not.

The simple thought of doing something dirty to them was easily understood by Renya.

"…Such misfortune."

"I really, really think so."

At Renya's words of comfort the two nodded wholeheartedly, But looking from Renya's point of view it was not impossible to understand the thoughts of those men.

If one looked closely one would find that two beautiful girls, one who was trained and had style while the other was [muchimuchi] and [purinpurin.]* (むっちむちのぷりんぷりんである){TL note: I have no idea what English words to use here} (E: They're at the bottom of the doc now.)

It was precisely because I was walking behind that I knew. When looking from the back it seemed like something with tremendous sense of weight was shaking, up and down, left and right with a [boing boing] effect, and of course, as a man, several hundred evil thoughts were bound to appear.

But to act upon them was a different matter altogether.

"So, where do you plan on going?"

Renya said this while being careful not to look at a key area.

"We plan on returning to the village, which we were asked to use as our base."

"Actually, the place we need to return to is the Principality, but it takes two days on horse carriage to go there, and another two to return."

As expected, it would be impossible for two people to subdue the goblin population. While thinking this, Renya was met with surprising words from Zion.

"I ask that Renya stay at the village and wait for the next carriage."

"Although suppression is now impossible, we need to at least investigate. Otherwise, we would not be able to return, even if we wanted to."

"No! That's too reckless."

Rona was dressed in a priest's grab which was not suited for quick movements.

Zion wore fighting equipment for the time being, but it did not seem suitable to Renya for a light investigation.

“Although it is reckless, returning without producing results will hinder us in future.”

“You are dead if you underestimate the adventurer profession.”

“6 out of 8 people were strangers. To come up with such a setting, doesn’t the problem lie with the Guild?” Renya tried to say this by Zion shook her head from side to side.

“Certainly, it was the Guild’s oversight to not do a prior investigation, but I will not wait two days just to report it. If in that time the damage caused by goblins increased, the people of the village will be injured.”

“That is certainly so.”

Still, their own death was like putting the cart in front of the horse. Put dying aside, if they were captured by Goblins and used in helping to increase their numbers, it would not even be a funny story, Renya thought, but looking at their determination, Renya had no choice but to give up on changing their minds.

“Okay then, can I help out?”

Renya called out, expecting that he was most likely going to be rejected, but it would leave a bad taste in his mouth if he were to abandon them, or pretend he didn’t know anything.

The two girls whispered to each other for a while, and then Zion asked Renya.

“Is it alright? We will survive, but you do not belong to the Guild, so things like a reward will not be given.”

“It’s alright. I really don’t care, but in exchange, if you could teach me various things about this world, it would be very helpful.”

“As a reward for life threating work, doesn’t that sound cheap?”

Once again Zion had that aura of caution around her again. Just earlier, such a thing had happened. It is obvious that she would be alert with a man travelling with them. Renya sighed.

“Well, it’s like that but…“

“Information is what people who have find cheap and minor, while people who don’t have it find it to be valuable.”

Towards Renya, who had given such an unbelievable, reason Zion was still suspicious while Rona, laughing unceremoniously , said,

“It’s alright, Renya-san is surely a good person.”

To the laughing Rona, the unsatisfied Zion said,

“Really! I guess I have to accept to repay the favour.”

Even when he got his proposal accepted, Renya thought, *wanting them to trust me might be impossible,* and looked up at the sky.

<– Previous Chapter Next Chapter –>

Chapter 5.5 – It seems to be Interlude 2

This chapter is a repost. In order to improve readability of the novel and going by the fact the original blog has been inactive it was moved to this blog. You can find the original chapter post here.

“Lord, what kind of person was Kunugi Renya?”

In response to the sudden question posed to me, I diverted my attention from work and looked in the direction of the voice.

The most troublesome things are those that are generated one after another, where if you crush one problem, another issue shows up, which results in feeling like you are playing a continuous game of Whack-a-Mole.

What I was doing now was, in a world where the Hero and his party truly believe that they can change the world with the strength of their willpower. Their power really is exceeding that of the Administrator, thus they are in a situation where they can truly change the world. I received a help request from the Administrator there, so for the time being I gave the administrator there some more power and I also had to work to increase the power of the Demon Lord to the point that when the Hero and co. confront the Demon Lord, they do not die, but have their hearts feel miserable to a breaking point.

To this idiot who had pointlessly increased my work, I won’t even bother to raise my hand to punish him, but instead I’ll have him continue his work for another 1000+ years.

Of course, the one who lent the Demon Lord power was me.

By now, the Demon Lord himself must be wondering and looking for an answer as to how he was able to fight off the Hero and his party.

If you look at it normally, by now the Demon Lord should have been defeated by the Hero, and the Hero should have returned triumphantly to the kingdom.

But I think that this scenario not happening is the severity of reality.

To create a world where everyone gets along is indeed a great idea, but a world is something which is made thanks to someone crying somewhere and wanting to be something. Someone somewhere once said that being an Administrator is like having the misfortune to give work to an indefinite number of people.

If the world could be made with ideals, an existence such as myself would not be needed, and there’d be no need for me to endlessly continue to work and adjust the world.

Even though I say that, if the Hero and his party is wiped out, another Hero will be needed to maintain an equilibrium. Somehow, not wanting to increase my work, I compromised and only weakened the party.

people pray to God for help, but I am God. Who am I supposed to offer my prayers to? Even then, what should I pray for?

(E: That was an intense monologue, oh God why do you do this to me [hehe], translating these must be an even deeper ring of Hell than editing them)

“De, what were we talking about?”

“Lord, exactly where the hell did you derail to?”

I saw the tired face of the blonde beauty.

“I derail where I want.”

“Please return to the main point.”

The blonde beauty retorts back coldly. This pissed me off, and I was thinking about to changing her into a frog, or making her reincarnate into an insect but stopped, as its would only increase my workload. Hence there is no meaning in doing this and I will only get pointlessly tired.

Okay, okay, alright, I will return to the main point, just let me concentrate on my work, as I won’t be able to come back from the main point for the next 360 billion seconds. (11,415 years for reference.)

Anyway, why are you telling me to get back to the point when you want to talk, but you do not even remember that? I wonder what’s wrong with the way of education. 24 sec had gone by while I was thinking about such things.

Now I have lost approximately 0.000000006%. What a waste, I don’t even want to care. AGH! So troublesome.

“Lord.”

“Like I said, WHAT!? eh? Ah, Kunugi …oh. That old man.” (E: Lives for thousands of years, calls 94-year-old old man. Godlogic)

After yelling and saying a few words, I finally understood who she was talking about, and stopped my work for a while.

“If it’s about that old man, I don’t know.”

“Eh?”

“His cause of death was quite straight forward when his soul was extracted, As to what type of person he was, I did not look into it. I did look at some of his data, though. It seems that he was a gourmet.” (E: Or was he… a gourmet bastard? kek)

If there was no data, I would not have known how to persuade that old man to go to the other world.

He might have had some regrets in his previous world, so I cleared his soul, but now I am reflecting on it, as sometimes it might be good, but it can also be bad.

“Was it really alright to send him to another world in such a situation?”

“Is there a reason not to?”

With a serious expression on her face, subordinate A is loss for words.

I have no idea what is so shocking.

“Just like how a pebble thrown in the sea won’t cause a tsunami, what is such a big deal in sending him without investigating?”

“Well, since I am responsible for sending him, help me investigate a bit.”

“What do you mean, ‘help?’ If you were to search for his history, wouldn’t It come up immediately?”

Ah! that’s also an option. All I need is to pull up the history on his soul.

Kunugi Renya Human race , Age:94

Current resource file number: 9201-0846-2525-4985

former world number: 8190 – 9753 – 1414 – 3878

No special events mentioned

14th family head of kunugi one sword flow style.

An accomplished kendoist since childhood, at the age of 13 he takes up swordsmanship, hence allowing his talent to bloom.
At 15 years old, moved to mainland China for warrior training by taking part in the underground society.
He killed a large number of people using a single sword, hence was called by the nickname of “**sword demon**“ (T: ken no oni)
The number of people he killed in the underground society activities caps at 912 people in five years.
Then, he served in World War II.

The number of people he killed during the war period of four years was 3712 people. The number of people he killed during the war period of four years with his blade alone was 3712 people.
Hence the name, “**Blade ogre**“.

After the war, became the next family head of Kunugi one sword flow style, spent time training and learning other sword styles.
Carried out performances of swordsmanship through demonstrations in various places, and quickly made the Kunugi one sword flow style widely known which lead to having 49 dojos in japan and abroad.

In His later years became a swordsmith, having the inscription of “ka Ren”(lotus petal), was known as the human national treasure.
Also was a known gourmet, had a high affinity for cuisine.
lived to the age of 94 years and 127 days, and died of old age.
Life Kills, 5730 people. (TL: WOW thats some record) (E: Holy shit, this guy’s a badass.)

“……. real cheat kita?”*

“Why are you talking like that, Lord?”

Raising my line of sight from the window, which displayed the written information to me, I denoted it in a surprised manner and my subordinate dropped a tsukkomi* immediately.
I’m sure that right now, I must have a very blank look.

“What’s this!? In spite of being chosen appropriately, it’s a ridiculous life, isn’t it!?”

“To kill five thousand or more people with only a sword, but it impossible!? T-teka*, he must have killed about four digits from celebrating the end of the war, this man!”

“It must have been exceptionally well-concealed.”

“Come to think of it, the data had no disclaimer of him being a criminal!”

Information was to be displayed with a special note if one had a criminal record.
By the way, the crime record, which is displayed here, is according to the law of that world.

If it is not done so, every human will have a criminal record for killing countless lifeforms.

Because this person's original world had several billion human beings, the killing of about five thousand people would not have much influence in the world.

However, he was sent to a place where the world's population is, at best, around 10 million.*
A person that can kill 5,000 people with his own skills, plus I gave further cheat-like skills to the one I sent.

"Instead of a pebble, that was a nuclear bomb!"

"A tsunami is most likely going to occur."

To subordinate A, who leisurely replied, I sent murderous intent.
…But stopped, as it might end up hurting, and my work would be delayed, and it would also be troublesome because the amount of time I need to spend working would increase.

"Subordinate A, your name?"

"It is not set, but?"

"…… hmm fix your appearance. Afterwards, I will give you a name"

"What? What on earth is…"

Opening the settings window of the panicking Subordinate A, I start making changes. (E: Prepare to go from Extra to Lead. Scariest change ever. So many more lines to recite.)
First of all, I wonder why the subordinates are all blond women.
Certainly, initially I was making them with a certain degree of difference, but it started becoming troublesome as it continued, and I decided to mass-produce copies based on a template.
But it somehow seemed the old man did not like blond women, so I will change the hair to black, with the hairstyle of tails, somewhat conservative, age setting of around 18 years old, and I'll change the voice a bit.

"From today onwards you will be Girieru (gi-ri-e-ru), because you are an archangel. Go to that world and serve as Renya's archangel and continue as normal." (E: I am become Girieru, destroyer of blondes)

"Eh? Please do not increase my work."

The revised Subordinate A replied with a genuinely unpleasant face. The angel I named Girieru settled down when I glanced at her, and asked me reluctantly.

"But is it really okay? All of the Administrators of that world will not like it, you know."

"To send an angel is not a problem. And, because it is only to give refuge to individuals, they can't complain, nor can they get in the way"

"If that is so, wouldn't it have been better to send an angel to get the resources?"

To Girieru, who came up with the bright idea, I jumped and dropped a fist on her head.
Since I changed the form of the girl, the height difference is somewhat of an inconvenience, but because another figure is particularly hard to think of, I am going to leave it as it is.

"But you angels will not be able to reside on the ground!"

“Oh, that is also true.”

“Quickly go, without nitpicking! Give that old man some help, and do not be unreasonable! If you are unreasonable and reckless I will stop you! All right?”

”I will act accordingly.”

The reply was missing the excitement, but it can’t be helped if my subordinates lack motivation – since I, as the one who made them, also lacked motivation. But still, she lowered her head, indicating that she will go as ordered. Incidentally, I added another order.

“And that shinai* – at a proper time, change its shape to that of a sword (katana).”

“Timing and reason is very important, I see. I will try my best”

I resumed my work after seeing the angel off.

FT: Quite long for an interlude. Or maybe that’s just the Monologues from Hell™.

* – 1: This is what it says untranslated.

* – 2: A Tsukkomi is pretty much just a smartass remark. i.e. sass.

* – 3: I don’t even know.

* – 4: OK, let’s see, the US population can be rounded to 306,675,000, and the square mileage of the contiguous US + DC gets to 2,959,064.44 mi^2. This is about 104 people to a square mile. For this entire world to have the same population density, it would be only 94,339.6226 mi^2, which is comparable to the size of Oregon, only 2 thousand or so miles short. Within this there are 5 territories, and each would have to be about 19,000 miles, if not a bit less. Basically, put New Hampshire and Vermont together 5 times. That’s not even half of the size of Ohio. And it’s the entire world. Put that into perspective.

* – 5: A shinai is a practice sword made from a bundle of bamboo. Well, really, it’s a *practice practice sword* being used for sport in Kendo. A “real” practice sword is a bokken, which is just a wooden katana, usually without a tsuba (comparable to a hilt, or a minimalistic hand guard).

<– Previous Chapter Next Chapter –>

Chapter 6 – It seems there is a storm ahead

There was no one opposing Shions suggestion to return to the village for now.
Because they were in a forest Renya had lost his track of time. If they were to keep searching the sun would set upon them which would be dangerous according to Shion as Goblins were nocturnal.
Animals and Monsters were all nocturnal which was astonishing new information to Renya. However, Shion asserted this to be common knowledge.

“Nevertheless I will act during the daytime.”
said Shion while searching the luggage left in the rented house which was used as operational base.
The luggage of the six mercenaries who were left behind in the forest contained an considerable amount of items.

Returning to the village, the villagers were surprised to see the number of adventurers to have dropped by six people. Shion told them that after they got separated on the way their whereabouts were lost.
“We can’t really tell them that they got beaten up and left behind in the forest after having attacked us, now can we?” (Shion)
“Will you report this to the guild in the same fashion?” (Renya)
When Renya asked this, Shion immediately denied this.
“I cannot lie to the guild. I will report the truth to them.” (Shion)
“Won’t I be treated as a criminal then though?” (Renya)
asked Renya worriedly regarding treatment of murder in this world.
His concern was not so much about being a criminal though but more regarding the troublesome restrictions being treated as one.
However, Shion simply rejected his worries.
“No problem. Because Ro and I will act as witnesses. The testimony of those accompanying when the incident took place while acting on the request is regarded as the strongest evidence.” (Shion)
“Because these kind of people usually conduct themselves badly, one gets acquitted immediately if the circumstances are explained properly.” (Rona)
Rona interjects while still rummaging through the contents of the luggage. Judging by the way she is talking, this seems to be restricted to a certain degree, causing Renya increasingly to look dejected.
“At any rate, these fellows … I can’t find any weapons in these.” (Shion)
“It is impossible to use anything from this. Since the changes of cloth are useless at this point too, let’s just burn everything.” (Rona)
The fireplace was lit up and the two threw the unnecessary luggage into the burning fire.
Towards this too appropriate treatment, Renya silently prayed for the 6 people who very likely departed this world already.

“Are you looking for something?” (Renya)
Renya asked while watching the luggage burning down to ash mercilessly.
“Proper money and goods. I thought we need this and Renya should have a proper weapon.” (Shion)
Although this is completely the way a thief talks, Shion drew a blade lightly. Renya pointed to his shinai but Shion discarded his motion simply.
“I do understand your hesitation but you should still use a weapon with a proper blade, Renya.” (Shion)
While it may be a complete change of style compared to using the shinai for Renya, Shion claimed it to be foolish to rely only on thrusting attacks in combat.
“If your attacks are limited to only stabbing, your attack range will be rather narrow.” (Shion)

“But with his kind of movement I don’t think he will have any problems.” (Rona)
responds Rona towards Shions argument. However Shion denied this right away.
“Using only piercing attacks is problematic. Combining it with slashing attacks will make fights easier and give him more options. Therefore he should change his weapon.” (Shion)
“Well, such a way of thinking is possible too.” (Rona)
“Hey, is there no other option than me passing Renya my spare weapon?” (Shion)
“Umm .. well .. there will be no problem with him using it, I think.” (Rona)
Rona somehow judged after taking a moment to decide. Shion didn’t seem to mind it either as she took out a longsword from her bag and passed it to Renya.

Upon receiving the longsword from Shion, Renya drew the blade from its sheath. Levelling the longsword horizontally in his right hand with a firm grip, Renya focussed his attention on the blade.
After assessing the edge for a while, Renya returned the sword into its sheath. One could see that his hands were fully accustomed to the action of drawing and redrawing a sword.
“How is it?” (Shion)
“Well, the sword is sufficient enough.” (Renya)
Renya answered Shions question flatly.
Truthfully he was very dissatisfied with the quality of this longsword though.
The blade was crude without any decorations trimmed only towards its practical use. The iron used for the blade was of inferior quality devoiding the blade of any feeling of life within it.
The edge of the sword was sharpened only to a certain degree. Making one doubt whether cutting anything with it was possible at all.
Renya remembered that weapons were used for crushing rather than slicing when paired up against full plate armour in the medieval times on earth.
It is very likely that the crafting skill advanced only this far resembling this motion and thus there was no other way than using the sword similarly.
In contrast to the poor blade, the quality of the hilt was magnificent.
Because useless decoration on the hilt only leads to inconvenient handling, only thin tanned leather stripes were wrapped around the hilt.
The sword guard displayed two intertwined dragons using respectively gold and silver to depict them, having them face each other in the centre of the guard serving as crest.
“Part of the hilt looks to me remarkably expensive.” (Renya)
“Though the blade was broken several times, the hilt portion was handed down as legacy. I am no match for your discerning eye.” (Shion)
Shion admits wearing a slightly mortified expression.

Even though Renya was still somehow dissatisfied with the sword he accepted Shions sacrifice to lent him something precious. Not using the sword would be rude thus he stored his shinai in the inventory.
“Oh, how enviable to possess [Inventory].” (Rona)
“That’s true. It is a skill which causes requests to carry payload to flood in with only that.” (Shion)
The two women raised their voices in admiration seeing the shinai disappearing into the void.
As Renya didn’t comprehend their excitement he looked at them with a questioning look. Shion then explained.
“Just now that weapon was put away in empty space, right? It is a skill called [Inventory]. There are very few possessing this skill.” (Shion)
“Rumors say the amount of items that can be stored away is limited. Still it an enviable skill as it totally disregards weight restrictions.” (Rona)
Renya looked down on the luggage spread on the floor.
At first it was planned to finish investigating before the next regular carriage arrives in two days, thus the amount of luggage for two people was reasonable making it possible to simply shoulder it.
Small tools for maintenance, food, water, ointments and equipment were particularly visible. Most likely the rest of space not visible was used up by changes of clothes and similar.

Considering that these two were moving around a lot to different places it was easily understandable that possessing a skill which allowed them to not carry the luggage all the time was indeed enviable.
“To return by foot, do you two want me to carry your luggage using [Inventory]?” (Renya)
“That would be very helpful as it would save us some of the faring expenses.” (Rona)
The fare expenses for using the carriage seem to be decided by the weight including the luggage rather than the number of people boarding. Rona might say that but it is not like everything is measured exactly.
The carriage driver decides the price by the equipment worn and the additional baggage included.
“That is an easy task. But before that we have to finish investigating safely.” (Renya)

“That’s true. Our opponents may be goblins, nonetheless one has to be careful.” (Shion)
“Since the terrain is unfamiliar to us.” (Renya)
Although it was vaguely called an investigation, but as there are no maps available for the area, it is mostly wandering aimlessly through the forest until the goblin settlement was found by a stroke of luck. Shion explains the basic outline. Alternatively one could follow goblins who were hunting for food, using them to calculate the position of the goblin settlement, it seems. Without a map of the forest deriving the location from accumulated information might be quite difficult though.

To confirm the situation once more Renya started to open his mouth but suddenly he felt a chill down his neck making him stiffen his back. Rubbing his neck with right hand, Renya approached the window.
The crafting technology to produce glass seemed to have developed in this world. Although its quality was not comparable to earth, rather the glass here was murky and uneven. Nevertheless one could still see the outside with this degree of transparency. Through the window you could see that it would be very soon night as the red glow of the sunset had faded already and it got dusky.
The rented house was facing towards the outskirts of the village. The defensive wall which was set up had approximately the same height as the trees. Not too far away from the wall the black silhoutte of the forest was slightly visible. Even though Renya strained his eyes, he couldn’t see anything within that dark mass. But if Renya was to trust his intuition there was something definitely there.
“What’s wrong, Renya?” (Shion)
Shion inquired, noticing his grim face as he was watching intently at the forest.
“I am not sure but there is something in the forest.” (Renya)
“Is this another of your skills?” (Shion)
Shion walked next to Renya taking a look outside towards the forest. Tilting her head looking doubtfully she asked Renya.
After a short while of pondering over the matter Renya shook his head.
“It is no skill but more of a feeling.” (Renya)
“Intuition, huh?” (Shion)
“Ah, I’m pretty sure about it though.” (Renya)
Even if his memories were wiped by god, his acquired senses were not. Renya was determined to believe in his intuition.
“I don’t sense nor see anything but if Renya says so, it may be worth to check it out. Ro, can I entrust it to you?” (Shion)
“Yes, no problem.” (Rona)
Shion asked Rona turning around to her. Rona nodded and folded both hands in front of her chest.
This pose caused her bountiful chest to be pushed up emphasizing it furthermore. Realising this, Renya shook his head lightly as now was not the time to think about that.
Renya carefully watched Rona as she fluently recited the spell words.
“I beseech you.
In my belief to our holy Lord.
Identify the being disturbing our peace.” (Rona)
Renya perceived a powerful wave spreading from Ronas folded hands. Like the sonar of a submarine it quickly

spread over a wide area and converged just as fast back into Ronas clasped hands.
As the wave converged Rona looked up to Renya.
“There is something hostile within the forest for sure. Even more so there is quite a number of them. Probably 50 or more though I am not quite sure. It seems there are quite a few outside the perception range too.” (Rona)
“This is … ?” (Renya)
Even though it was clearly visible, Renya didn’t understand what happened.
“It is the magic practised by priests who serve a god. If there is someone with malicious intent in range of the spell the caster will be able to tell. Still … 50 or more? What the hell is going on …” (Shion)
“There is miasma gathering in the forest which causes this many of them to crowd together.” (Rona)
“… This is bad. There is a commander leading the goblins, huh?” (Shion)
Upon Shions words Renya remembered the information he had seen in the Help before returning to the village.
It said that sometimes there are rare cases of monsters born with high individual ability who would gather a large group.
“For now, Ro, please hurry to the village chief. Those able to fight have to prepare while the women and children have to be evacuated.” (Shion)
“Right away.” (Rona)
Rona answered while starting to run.
Seeing Rona off Shion turned around to Renya.

“Our bad luck seems to continue. Will you help out too?” (Shion)
You could feel from the questioning tone that there was no room for refusal.
Renya could pretty much tell that the situation was quite bad.
“Do you think they will attack?” (Renya)
Renya asked which Shion confirmed right away.
“With a number of 50 or more gathered, the possibility of a scouting party is non-existent. If they are working under a commander even more so.” (Shion)
“What’s the degree of difference in military power?” (Renya)
“The current population of this village is slightly over 50 people. From those only 10 young man would be able to fight. This leaves us at pretty disadvantageous odds of 13 against 50 including us.
Moreover the men of the village have not received any combat training if the situation becomes one versus many in contrast to one versus one fights.” (Shion)
“And if we loose?” (Renya)
“I don’t want to imagine it.” (Shion)
Shion replies making a bitter face.
“Once the village is taken over, those guys will consider humans as fodder. The young women if not dead by then will wish they were considering the things they will experience.” (Shion)
“Yahoo, a future with many children is waiting. The AV development is deep blue too.” (Renya) *(T/N: Not quite sure, but I guess “deep blue = Rape/Netorare”, oh and AV = Adult Video.)*
Renya uttered in jest, not meaning it earnestly though. Although one might say that’s the way life goes. I don’t think there is AV in this world though.
But, however you might put it, it left a bad taste from the bottom of the heart.
“Please don’t joke about it, it is not very funny.” (Shion)
“Is that so? Hmm, I guess so … we can ponder about what’s to come afterwards once it’s over.” (Renya)
“Somehow … the tension has become weird, hasn’t it? If you …” (Shion)
Shion raises her voice lightly being astonished while taking a long hard look on Renyas face.
“Why … Are you laughing?” (Shion)
Unconsciously Renyas corners of the mouth were raised which he covered with his hands after it being pointed out.
Certainly, it seems I am aware of myself smiling.
Even so, you can’t say it was a good smiling face.
“Why? … You ask. How to put it …” (Renya)

After thinking for a moment what to say, Renya continued.
“After all, the fight is interesting because it is disadvantageous, isn’t it?” (Renya) *(T/N: evil smile)*

<– Previous Chapter Next Chapter –>

Chapter 7 – It seems to be a defensive battle

Warning: This chapter depicts excessive images of violence and gore! If you can't stand those or are below the age of 15 please refrain from reading further on and visit here.

The invasion started at sunset. Leaping out from the shadows of the dark forest was a flood of figures who appeared to be goblins. Within that darkness the countless fiery red eyes shone threateningly reflecting the little light that was left. Their numbers were so plentiful that one could not understand how Rona could have only mentioned a meagre 50.

Opposing them was the side of the pioneer's village. Inside the fortress those on defensive duty were spread around several watch fires which illuminated the vicinity guaranteeing them sight within the deep night.

Shion's group was positioned as vanguard while the young men of the village, who were equipped with arms such as axes and bows, laid in wait behind them.

While the darkness of the night supported the attacking demons, the humans had no such advantage. Thus it was decided for Rona to cast Illumination magic once the battle began to shed light upon the battlefield.

However it was uncertain whether this would cover the entire battle field.

The weaponry used by the villagers were things such as hunting bows, carpenter hatchets and lumberjack axes as they were not expecting a real battle at all. And while those weapons certainly were powerful in the hands of young men, none of them had received any combat training, making them complete amateurs at mortal battle.

All in all their entire combat force consisted of 12 amateurs and Shion's group. This small group of able combatants also had to protect the 40 elders, women and children.

By now there was no point in discussing how to use their combat force in battle but rather how to escape the assault without incurring significant damage. However there was no safe refuge available even if one considered escaping.

It is in the nature of a pioneer's village to be constructed in a remote region in the first place. Usually soldiers were hired as guards, but since this was a newly built village there was no chance for soldiers to arrive yet, even if they were dispatched already. This was yet another drip of misfortune in the already full casket.

The distance to the nearest town was two days by carriage. Considering the women and children who were unable to fight, this was no distance one could easily traverse. For example, even if some villagers would be able to somehow escape by sheer luck, the majority of the villagers would end up as prey for the pursuing goblins.

"Uwaah … I feel like running away." (Renya)

Holding the loaned longsword in the right hand and gripping an axe he picked up somewhere in the left hand while swinging it around lightly, Renya watched the approaching horde of goblins emerging from the forest.

In contrast to the grumbled words which emitted his feeling of how bothersome this whole ordeal was to him, his mouth formed a smile that gave off a strong aura of certain victory. Whereas the expressions of Shion and the young men were pale and terrified at the approaching menace, his face showed no distress or worry at all exuding a relaxed composure.

“Renya, you seem to be used to such situations?” (Shion)

Shion inquired in a strained weak voice. While the voice of the responding Renya on the contrary could only be described as flabby. (T/N: funya~ funya~)

“Nnn … I wonder~ … The memory of it seems to have been erased, I guess? But, oh well … some way or the other we will manage to do something about this mess, don’t you think?” (Renya)

“Re-Renya … somehow you are quite composed desu~” (Rona)

Even though Rona stated this, Renya denied it flatly.

“No such thing. However, it can’t get any worse than me dying.” (Renya)

Because I already died once after all, he could have said. But he swallowed those words.

Those two wouldn’t understand it even if he told them. There was neither meaning nor significance in mentioning it either.

“Rather than that, won’t we enter the range of bows soon?” (Renya)

“Muuu~ … Archers fire away!” (Shion)

Though some of the villagers began to shoot their arrows towards the advancing goblins by Shion’s command, the amount of archers being four was low and thus the amount of arrows sent flying was low as well. Having the strength of hunters, some of the arrows pierced the goblins at the front of the approaching pack. But the resulting effect didn’t amount to any more than a mere droplet of water in a desert.

“Well then … see you later in case we survive this. I am going to attack them. Keep the arrows coming.” (Renya)

“Ehhh !?” (Rona & Shion)

Renya glanced at Shion and Rona who both raised their voices in shock. Then he started suddenly to run while holding the sword and axe loosely in his hands.

Some of the villagers raised their voices exclaiming his charge to be too reckless, but Renya continued to run without minding them at all.

In the first place, the difference in numbers was too far from expected. No matter where, there was no escape to begin with no matter how reckless he was. Thus he decided to jump in by himself to fight as efficiently as possible utilizing his full strength. But even then he was aware that confronting this many goblins alone could be called suicidal.

The weapons of the goblins were crude spears made out of tree branches and crumbling edged tools. The vanguards of the goblins hurried to set up their spears aiming for the approaching Renya. Renya waited for the moment they thrust their spears at him. Keeping his body low and sliding along the ground, he evaded the incoming spears.

Passing below the outstretched spears, Renya kicked one goblin down and stood up while slicing with both weapons, sword and axe, the legs off the goblins on the right and left side.

Dealing with a large crowd of spear holders the most problematic issue is getting past the line of the attacking of spears. Once you enter close combat the spear becomes unsuitable and very difficult to use.

Furthermore, brandishing the spear within a large crowd is impossible. Thus the spears have to be abandoned in favour of swords and axes.

The goblins whose legs were cut off were thrashing around on the ground trying to recover from their sorry state. Meanwhile the other goblins threw their spears down to prepare other weapons.

Using this opening in defence to hack away at both parties, Renya dispatched several of the goblins quickly. In response to the slaughtering ensuing, dark red liquid sputtered all around.

While basking in the crowd that tried scattering away from him as they were mowed down, Renya confirmed one fact.

“I do love fighting.” (Renya)

He couldn’t stop to laugh. Turning his eyes looking for the next target to attack, he didn’t even bother looking at the result of his previous one.

A ball of gleaming white light ascended into the sky. Renya realised, that Rona had used her Illumination magic which could only mean that the villagers had started their battle now too.

By its nature, it was not possible to stop such a large crowd with the charge of just one person. The amount of victims was limited to a few, but that was to be expected. Thus Renya continued killing. Every passing second there were even more of them.

Repelling a small rust-covered sword with his long sword, he stroke his axe into the upper body of a goblin. The blade of the axe bit deep into the flesh. Since it was too difficult to pull out the axe, he simply tossed the dying body at another goblin. Pressing on, he mercilessly crushed the goblins who tried to escape from him as they stumbled about.

Whether it was a head, a belly or an arm, he relentlessly crushed them. Driving the axe into a screaming mouth while chopping off the hand trying to help with the long sword.

He didn’t care about weak counter-attacks to the degree of only grazing him either. Choosing to repel only those attacks that were dangerous, he returned the favour by swinging his axe at the attackers.

Midway the longsword simply snapped. Renya adjusted the way he was holding it from an ordinary hold to a backhanded grip[1], using the the hilt with its remaining part of blade to exchange a few strikes.

However as the blade failed soon afterwards, he tossed the hilt into the [Inventory]. Leaving him with only the axe, thus he grasped it with both hands.

No matter how sturdy and thick the blade of a axe might be, if it is used against countless demons at full power repetitively, it will certainly slowly chip and be destroyed in the process.

The axe’s handle was designed to endure chopping at hard wood and thus it wouldn’t break quickly, which served Renya’s purpose well enough. In the first place, he didn’t plan on cutting with the axe’s blade anyway.

All he required was a solid part to strike with, thus there was no impediment accomplishing his goal without the axe’s blade part.

Wooden bucklers, leather armour and arms brandishing weapons in defence, were utterly useless in front of Renya. Without a care using all his strength, he continued to strike in a mood as if he was working on a lump of iron. Whether breaking or being broken lost all of its relevance. After all it were only bodies made of flesh and bones he was facing.

After a short while his own leather armour was torn at several places as scratches had accumulated all over.

As it was only an hindrance at this point, he tore it off and tossed it carelessly away.

In a corner of his mind, he registered that it was a gift from Kami-sama originally. But that was only a passing thought as he focussed his concentration on the battle in front of him.

With his body screaming in pain from the accumulated cut and stab wounds all over due to becoming defenceless, his mind started to loose its rational bounds and shifted towards the edge of insanity.

It was an intoxicating pleasure.

Loosing himself more and more in the rising madness.

Enjoying the feeling of crushed flesh which was transmitted to him through the axe's handle.

Revelling in the sweet melody of bones being crushed.

Desiring to bath his body in the lukewarm blood of his enemies, he was looking for the next victim.

Watching the ugly face of a demon distorted in agonizing terror, he was truly happy. The face which was crying and pleading for help was an interesting sight to him.

Judging escape to be impossible, the frantic expression as the deadly strike descended upon it, appeared to him as adorable.

The throbbing wound of the light cut by a blade felt comfortable to him.

The striking impact to the numb body about to puff the candle of life was irresistible.

What kind of feeling will he experience with the next one?

What kind of show will he watch with the next one?

What kind of taste will he savour with the next one?

As one would expect, the strain on the axe's handle took its toll in the end. As he crushed another demon who didn't understand what was happening in front of its eyes, the handle broke. He stabbed the remaining sharp splinter into the face of a nearby goblin and thus parted with his last weapon.

At last Renya was empty-handed causing the goblins to grab this chance to rush upon him. But there was no sign of panic on Renya countenance to be seen. Grabbing a wrist holding onto a weapon in order to steal it from its owner, he rammed his elbow into the face of the goblin snatching its weapon away, just to use it to crush another goblin's head.

The weapon was of low quality and not maintained at all, thus it broke after just one swing. But Renya didn't care at all and simply stole another weapon from a different goblin.

"This is not satisfying enough at all, you lot!" (Renya)

Stepping on a goblin that fell to the ground and crushing it, Renya spread his arms widely and declared thus threateningly.

"How weak! The enemy who kills your comrades stands here! The enemy you should kill is right before you! What's wrong? Come and get me!" (Renya)

Renya shouted in front of their eyes.

A remarkably huge goblin appeared in from of him. Renya's figure couldn't even begin to compare to its tremendous size.

Gripping a longsword in its hand and donning a chain mail, one could tell at a glance, that this goblin was a different kind of breed in comparison to the goblins standing behind him.

In a corner of his mind left untouched by his madness he realised that this was the goblin commander Shion mentioned before the battle started.

"That's the goblin leader! You have no chance without weapons. Run away!" (-)

A voice exclaimed from a very far and remote place. Although unlikely Renya considered it to be Shion's voice but disregarded such thinking right away. Whether the enemy had a weapon or was bare-handed didn't matter to Renya. This was a battlefield after all. And he wouldn't escape from it either way.

Though his entire body was riddled with bruises from the fighting, Renya's speed didn't drop at all.

However the speed of the goblin leader brandishing his longsword couldn't be compared to the other goblins he fought before at all.

How slow, is what Renya thought nevertheless. Stepping in quickly Renya delivered a front kick with his left foot. As was expected of the goblin leader's physique, the kick was limited to only stopping it for a moment instead of sending it flying.

Switching the foot stance from a kick to a step, Renya closed in on the goblin leader, using a palm strike with his right hand to pommel the wrist holding the brandished longsword. This attack caused the goblin leader to let go of the longsword.

Continuing on, he rammed his right shoulder with deadly force into it. Even though their physique couldn't have been any more different, the goblin leader was knocked down on the ground.

As it tried to stand up again, Renya quickly wrapped both arms around its neck. However he didn't intend to use such a half-hearted method as suffocating it. To avoid the other goblins attacking him in the back, he used the huge body as a shield. Channelling tremendous force into his arms, he pressed his back against the ground breaking the neck of the goblin leader.

With the dull sound of the bone breaking, he used his palms to push off the limp body of the goblin leader.

Without confirming its death, he leaped towards the longsword that was laying on the ground picking it up and grasping it tightly.

The feeling it emitted was slightly heavy as it had a rather thick blade. Though he didn't understand where it procured such weapon, he doubted the goblin leader was able to use any sword skills (Kenjutsu).

However it was a sturdy longsword and most likely wouldn't break even if he was to use his full strength, thought Renya.

"Well, I guess I was able to resupply myself with a weapon again, huh?" (Renya)

Turning around to the surrounding goblins, Renya smiled radiantly.

The faces of the goblins who saw this became frozen stiff.

“Shall we continue then?” (Renya)

It was not possible to suppress him even if they assaulted him in numbers and their leader had been slain as well. There was no way left for the goblins to defend against Renya’s attacks. While the goblins were screaming in terror, he waded through them leisurely as if he was taking a walk.

The place called battlefield immediately changed into a slaughterhouse.

Something like this happening daily … he was imagining.

He was looking forward to it.

Translation Notes

[1] – Imagine switching from an ordinary sword stance to using the sword like a dagger holding it backhanded like a shinobi.

<– Previous Chapter Next Chapter –>

Chapter 8 – It seems to be the cleanup after the battle

This chapter is entirely written from the point of view of Shion.

The italic text parts are her talking in her own mind.

Furthermore the chapter consists of many sentences that were eternally long and complicated. I tried to split them up a bit to make it more readable in English but that was not always possible with my language skills. So bear with the slightly longer sentences at some parts.

Lastly, I will color spell chants in the appropriate colors representing their magic system. This is only for making it easier to recognize them as chanting.

The sun rose slowly. Step by step the darkness of the night retreated steadily narrowing down its area of influence.

Gazing at the sky which started to be tinted in a red color, Shion had a feeling she saw something she didn't actually want to see.

It was almost morning, a refreshing one.

If that only was the case it would be nice , Shion thought.

If she tried to accurately describe her mixed up feelings this morning, she wouldn't be able to do it satisfactorily.

Her whole body felt heavy. She was sore from running around all night. Until now she couldn't count the times she had to wield her weapon.

Additionally half of that weariness was due to her listless nature.

Here and there she was injured. Because of the bleeding her stamina was depleted which additionally caused an intense exhaustion.

Although she didn't receive a fatal wound, the deep cuts at who-knows-how-many places took their toll in their own way.

Putting her own affairs aside, the question why they were still alive simply didn't vanish.

Originally she should rest on a bed or the ground. Her body was entirely wrapped up in bandages. Her wounds had been sewn shut making her appear like an old rag. Had it not been for Rona's healing magic, she would have used up all her strength midway assuming she was lucky enough to not be killed in battle before that.

Although the medical treatment of her wounds had already finished, replenishing the blood she lost with Healing magic was not an option as curing the wounds of an patient caused twice the exhaustion on the practitioner.

Her feelings were heavy, too

When she closed her eyes, she was vividly reminded of the scene of the approaching horde of goblins emerging from within the darkness which was burned into her sight.

She couldn't recall just how many of that crowd she had slaughtered. At the beginning she intended to keep count of it, but before long she stopped it as she didn't comprehend the reason to do it any more.

Brandishing her weapon attempting to strike at the opponent similar to a free-for-all fight, there was no margin left to think about other matters.

The damage sustained by the villagers was severe, too.

After all it was only ten-odd defenders intercepting the charge. It was impossible to restrain the pack of goblins and thus they were allowed to invade the village center.

Villagers who couldn't fight, locked their houses and secluded themselves in the basement where the crop was stored. The majority escaped the danger. Unfortunately it was discovered that 10 people had become desperate and tried to leave resulting in their death.

As for the villagers who helped as defenders, most of them had died. There were merely two survivors. Those two each lost an arm and had their eyes injured. Returning back to the old life with such injuries wouldn't be possible any more.

Most likely it has been decided to close down this village temporarily, Shion judged with a gloomy mood.

The workers were almost completely annihilated. Thus it would be unreasonable for the remaining villagers to continue staying here.

Going by the nature of the guild, it was almost certain that the accepted request will be judged as failure as well.

Surviving in perfectly good health was absolutely necessary and only that would be deemed acceptable.

Thinking about the cleanup of the incident, Shion was plunged into a whirl of dark emotions not knowing how deep she would fall.

In the end, the horde of goblins gushing out of the forest approximately exceeded an amount in the three digits by several counts in total.[1]

Moving one's sight from the village towards the forest, the ground up to the forest was turned into an area that was completely covered with innumerable corpses of goblins scattered about.

A figure of a person could be seen weaving through the gaps and slowly walking.

It was Renya.

He walked holding a knife drenched in reddish brown liquid in his left hand and dragging along the corpse of a goblin in his right hand.

If one wondered what he was doing: He was in the process of collecting the magic cores from the defeated goblin's bodies and gathering the unnecessary corpses in one place.

The magic core was an unusual crystal placed within the body of every monster. Generally it could be found either above the heart or inside the head. The strength of a monster changed depending on the size of the core.

As for goblins, the magic core could be found above their heart, however its size wasn't very big.

Within that core mana[2] was stored. It is used for magic crafting and as a power source to use various devices in cities and the like.

Furthermore the different magic cores themselves can be examined to determine from which monster it originated. Thus it also served as proof for subjugation requests of the guild.

Summarized, bringing them back turned them into money.

When Renya was taught this by Shion, he borrowed a knife from her after the battle and began to silently dismantle the corpses that were littering the field.

The corpse which was in the right hand of Renya was thrown away.

The corpses of goblins who had already been dismantled had grown into a hill. But there were still many more untouched corpses. Thus Renya immediately walked towards the next corpse.

Good grief, what kind of stamina does that man have, Shion sighed.

The appearance of the returning Renya shortly before dawn after the battle had ended had been quite terrible.

Most of the leather armor he wore had been destroyed and his upper body was completely naked. The trousers were worn-out and cut in several places.

He had been injured with a countless number of cuts and bruises all over and was also bleeding severely. Furthermore, on top of his body he was covered in the spurts of goblin gore. Basked in blood the rest couldn't be described as a solid body any more but rather as a lump of blood and flesh taking the shape of an essence resembling a human.

Moreover, because he was basked in the blood and flesh of goblins, he emitted a staggering stench. Shion resigned herself quickly to the task of wiping off the gore with a cloth. Then she dragged him by his hand walking towards the well of the village in order to dump masses of water on him to somehow get rid of the remaining filth.

When the dirt finally came off, Rona ended up screaming at first as she saw his whole body riddled with countless injuries. As soon as she had decided, Rona glossed over the persistently clinging stench with her own personal perfume, while frantically applying healing on his battered body.

The person himself had from the beginning until the end worn an annoyed, not complying expression.

At any rate, how absurd, Shion thought.

Yet, though his charge was extremely reckless and shocked her into astonishment, he not only returned alive but also produced the majority of corpses of the subjugated goblins lying on the battlefield by himself.

Moreover, after receiving treatment he immediately went on to move the corpses of the deceased villagers. And then he started on his operation to collect the magic cores from the dead goblins and to dispose of the dismantled corpses.

If you left the corpse of a monster as is, it would turn into something that is called undead which harms humans.

It was a troublesome being as the evil dwelling within continued to exist resenting humans for its death. But that was inevitable as monsters were such kind of creatures.

Therefore it was a rule that the corpses of subjugated monsters had to properly be disposed of then and there. The predominating method of disposal was to burn the corpses to cinder.

As the amount this time was quite numerous, the chance of a corpse turning undead while the magic cores were collected existed. The unusual and inefficient action of crushing the head, which Renya performed after collecting the magic core and carrying it to the mountain of discarded bodies, was owed to this.

Due to this bloody work, his body became dirty again.

Nevertheless, Shion had a problem with him doing his work in a half-naked state and thus requested a villager to prepare men's clothing for him to wear.

Renya refused telling her that it would just get dirty again anyway. Thus now he was working being naked above the waist only wearing his torn trousers, which made one shiver considering the coldness of such appearance.

That being said, his judgment was correct though.

Shion firmly made up her mind to make him wear the requested clothes this time after washing off the dirt with water and perfume once his work was finished.

Renya pulled up the corpse of a goblin, gouged out the magic core from its chest and crushed the head with the handle of the knife.

What a tough person, thought Shion.

On top of going through such a long battle, he continued afterwards to do this seemingly endless work. There was no adventurer of his kind to be found in the guild. At least Shion herself had no motivation to stand up and move even one step from the place she was resting at.

Although he said he was a Lost[3], it was the first time for Shion to see one herself.

They were ignorant to the common sense of the world, yet they possessed strange knowledge. Furthermore in general they were capable swordsmen, magicians and manufacturers. That was the extent of Shion's knowledge of the Lost.

Generally they were good people as almost none of them were cruel criminals.

The degree of frequency of their appearance widely varied. Especially if the world was heading towards a crisis, occasionally they would appear in a dashing heroic manner and among them a reasonable number carved their names and deeds into history. It is passed on that those figures were the existences known as the Lost.

In other words, you could say they were an extremely ambiguous existence that couldn't be called neither a good nor a bad omen.

Even so, Shion had a hunch that Renya was a Lost who in some way differed from the Lost as she had heard in rumors.

The hearsay on the Lost was limited to the knowledge that their common point was them coming from somewhere beyond this world. This pattern was something they left behind as confirmed story after inquiring on it.

However the case of a Lost introducing himself as such was as far as Shion knew something that hadn't happened in the past.

To begin with, the meaning of the word "Lost" itself wasn't something a person afflicted by this state should simply know about. Thus calling yourself like this was not possible.

If that's the case, the only reason Renya knows about the meaning of the word "Lost" was because someone else had taught it to him. However, Renya emerged from that forest. Very likely that was not a lie, Shion asserted.

Although they were associated with each other for only a little while now, Renya didn't appear to be a person who was good at lying. Incidentally he showed no hesitation when he declared his name either.

Within the forest there is no one who could have taught Renya the word, Shion believed without a doubt.

Then, who the heck taught Renya that word?

“Thinking about it is pointless …” (Shion)

Shion judged that she wouldn’t get an answer to that question.

Renya himself might tell her if she inquired him about it, but Shion hesitated whether it was a good idea to step into the core of the matter to such an extent.

Therefore I will put aside the question concerning such matters for now, thought Shion as she watched Renya continuing his work.

Gradually the corpses which still had to be dealt with started to change into things that were going to become an undead. However, Renya casually crushed them underfoot with hard kicks wearing an annoyed expression while continuing the processing of the corpses.

Putting the various issues that can’t be comprehended aside, that tough and sharp fighting technique is simply amazing. Furthermore not judging Rona as detestable is another big point.

While he was ignorant of this world’s situation, it could be said he was able to accept various instructions and escaped the battle without harm.

After going through the trouble with the soldiers from the mercenary kingdom, Shion now had too many hard feelings towards the various problems that could occur to a party of just two women.

She had decided to choose an additional party member once they returned to town, but one couldn’t make a mistake with such an excellent article before their eyes and thus she wouldn’t let him get away.

Shion was convinced that the degree of persuasion needed wouldn’t be such a troublesome matter either.

However, Renya still held onto that bamboo weapon which the soldiers of the mercenary kingdom mockingly called a stick. As a matter of fact he can be considered stubborn or rather be unyielding at times or more precisely he possessed typically difficult personality traits, she guessed.

So in the situation of only inviting him it was still possible that he would get angry and abandon them by cutting their ties, too.

I’m not a very sociable person, Shion sighed while scratching her head.

It’s alright. I have a feeling that Rona will be able to flawlessly follow-up on me, she decided optimistically.

That Rona was in the midst of her work of throwing firewood and oil one after another on the mountain of goblin corpses that Renya had amassed.

I should help out over there too, Shion sighed while heading over.

“The stench is terrible. You should light the fire already, shouldn’t you?” (Rona)

Rona said when she realized that Shion had come over.

The smell the pile of corpses emitted was certainly unbearable, Shion nodded as she approached.

“To keep the burning fire alive this strange fuel was provided as an addition. We should start the fire, I think.” (Shion)

“Can I ask you to do it?” (Rona)

She pleaded and Shion again nodded her approval.

Although Rona was an apprentice, she was still fairly skilled at using the magic of a priest. However for that reason skills related to different kinds of magic were almost entirely no good to the degree that you could say she was incompetent at it.

Being able to easily use magic of the water system meant that your affinity with magic of the fire system would be a hopelessly bad match. Even simple magic like was impossible to be cast.

Shion herself was no magician and thus she wasn’t able to use magic of a certain degree. However in consideration of the common daily life she had studied elementary magic. Thus it was usually her role to ignite a fire to boil water when they occasionally camped outside.

“In accordance to my authority: Dance, red dwarf!” [4] (Shion)

Putting power into the words, a part of the piled mountain is ignited by fire.

could be called the most basic magic spell of the elementary magic in the fire system. It created no more than a tiny spark of magic.

Because it was that convenient, not only adventurers but also common citizens usually utilized it.

As long as one cleared the condition of not having a bad affinity with the system, like Rona had, almost everyone could learn this magic. By just paying a few silver coins, you could learn it in any slightly bigger town.

Being widespread to this degree, one would expect the citizens to gather together and teach the skill to their fellow companions. Strangely though, unless you accepted the teaching by a magician you wouldn’t be able to use it.

While gazing at the flame extending itself along the firewood and oil, Shion judged it absolutely necessary to introduce Renya to a magician once they returned to town.

Translation Notes

[1] 総数にして３桁を超えるくらいの数がいたらしい。– I think I got it right but it sounds a bit odd. Please correct me, if I am wrong.

[2] Those who read my notes on Hachinan 26 know what comes next … the author uses the term maryouku which is magic power as per translation. However magic power is a measurement of quality in my eyes and used as such occasionally. To differentiate to the usage as measurement of quantity, in other words magic energy, I will use the term “mana.”

[3] Translation would be “person who lost his way/hesitating person” but that seems confusing as it is not the characteristic attribute that’s meant here. Thus I will go with the term “Lost” to reflect towards the fact they were transferred to this world and appear as lost to inhabitants of the world.

[4] 赤い小人 – red dwarf sounds a bit odd but that's what the spell incantation is in the end.

<– Previous Chapter Next Chapter –>

Chapter 9 – It seems to be important to compromise

This chapter was quite dense and partially rather abstract making it difficult to always grasp the context and meaning. Thus, some sentences may seem a bit rough. If you find any weird contradictions or awkward sentence

structures, feel free to drop a comment.

In the end 116 magic cores were collected. Most of them were as small as the fingernail of a pinky finger.

According to Shion their value supposedly was 3 silver coins per piece. After selling all of them, it would amount to 348 silver coins in total.

As Renya didn't know the currency used in this world, he asked Shion to show him some coins that were circulating as currency.

There was copper coin, big copper coin, silver coin, gold coin and platinum coin. Apparently the same currency was used on the entire continent.

The exchange rate was:

10 Copper coins -> 1 Big Copper coin

10 Big Copper coins -> 1 Silver coin

100 Silver coins -> 1 Gold coin

100 Gold coins -> 1 Platinum coin

After being troubled for a little while, Shion also explained their respective value. Generally one bread or one drink cost 10 copper coins.

Given that kind of explanation, Renya considered and conjectured from his own knowledge that 1 copper coin equaled approximately 10 Japanese yen in his original world.

In other words, one could think of it as follows:

a Big Copper coin is 100 Japanese yen,

a Silver coin is 1000 Japanese yen,

a Gold coin is 100'000 Japanese yen

and a Platinum coin is 10 million Japanese yen.

Based on this calculation Renya considered the value of money to be obviously very high.

Generally you wouldn't need to use more than silver coins to live an ordinary life. Gold and platinum coins were

stored away and sometimes used by adventurers to buy expensive tools and equipment.

That was the approximate run-down Shion taught Renya.

Looking at the spoils from the recent battle, 3 gold coins and 48 silver coins had been procured. Defining it in the currency of his original world, it would be 348’000 Japanese yen.

As a result it couldn’t be helped that Renya had a feeling of it being very little considering how close to death he had been in the battle.

Apart from this, the reward for the subjugation all together was 2 big copper coins for each goblin.

116 were defeated, thus it was 232 big copper coins or 23’200 Japanese yen.

Really not worth it, was Renya’s thought.

Still, according to what Shion taught him, for eating a reasonable set of meal 5 big copper coins were required and for staying one day and night at a typical inn including 2 meals cost 3 silver coins.

As a matter of fact, Renya noticed that the spoils from the recent battle didn’t cover any more than three months of living expenses. Thus he changed his way of thinking and simply recognized this to be the way it was.

For slaying 1 goblin, you got 2 big copper coins for the subjugation and 3 silver coins for the magic core.

Pondering about it, it wasn’t even sufficient enough for one day of food and lodging expenses. You couldn’t really call that appropriate.

In the first place, it is quite rare in itself to encounter a crowd reaching a count in the 3 digits. This time could be counted as rare case.

It can’t be helped that it wasn’t worth it, either, Renya agreed to himself.

Renya’s wallet in his [Inventory] held 10 gold coins. Roughly calculated, this amount of money would cover 10 months of living expenses.

In this case it was a situation where he could surprisingly splurge.

Next time he met Kami-sama he would need to express his gratitude.

Or rather, I will be a bit more gentle while dealing with her, Renya decided.

From the goblin leader which Renya defeated the loot was slightly larger, a magic core with a size to the degree of a thumbnail. (T/N: xD)

The reward for the subjugation was 5 silver coins and it seemed that the magic core would bring him 10 silver coins.

Although he thought that it was rather abrupt for the reward to rise this sharply, Shion and Rona concluded that it was due to the considerable degree of danger in finishing the goblin leader off. There was no choice but to accept this exception.

Even if he was concerned about the reward, it was pointless worrying about it, as he couldn’t hand it in, if he didn’t venture to the closest town first. This was a problem, too.

Above all, even though the next regular carriage would certainly arrive, all of the villagers will be eager to board it. Naturally there was no way the capacity of the carriage would be sufficient.

After the villagers fought against the goblin raid, they pretty much lost everything. The current condition of the village was similar to a bare plot of land.

Abandoning this place by themselves to return to town was not feasible for Renya's group either.

For escorting the villagers back to town it was necessary to employ soldiers. It would be wise to send a letter along with the carriage to the guild, so they could put up a request for this task.

Thinking about this, it would be another difficult voyage.

Ten days after sending the letter, about 10 soldiers along with 3 empty carts arrived at the village.

Renya couldn't comprehend at all what was going on with this situation.

Shion explained it to him like this: After the letter reached the guild, the guild contacted the town mayor about it. It was very likely that the town mayor wasn't able to dispatch a satisfactory number of soldiers with the authority he possessed. Thus the mayor now had to talk to the feudal lord governing the area about the situation. Then the feudal lord likely contacted the central government about it.

And then the central government refused the dispatch of soldiers.

This sounded like a quite cruel story, but for starters the central government might have seen this as trivial matter allowing them to not concern themselves with it. 『You caused the situation, so deal with it yourself』 seemed to be the extent of awareness towards the whole situation.

Accordingly the feudal lord and the town mayor reluctantly split the task of dispatching soldiers and carts.

Furthermore, heading towards the village could actually be called time consuming and hard labor, which was the reason why they arrived only now.

"Considering the reported damage, the amount of soldiers is insufficient. Although it was stated that this was the limit, this amount of carts is nowhere near enough either." (Shion)

Shion displeasedly stated.

Even if close to half the number of villagers went to town, there would still be 30 villagers left in the vicinity.

In order to transport all the luggage, three carts were totally insufficient.

It was decided that the luggage which didn't fit on the carts would be discarded unless it could be carried in the hands. Therefore the villagers examined which luggage held too important property to be thrown away.

To be asked to go ahead and throw it away just like that, it was unthinkable that they would easily say 'Yes, right away.'

Naturally the villagers started to quarrel between themselves causing even the guards to be influenced by the disputes.

Unable to just watch, the soldiers coldly drove away the desperately petitioning villagers.

Shion consulted in Renya to offer a solution but he declined it.

Anticipating the current situation, Renya had already finished putting Shion's and Rona's luggage into the storage of his [Inventory]. More or less there was still some space left inside, but that could only be called little.

Granting the wish of the villagers was not possible no matter how you looked at it.

“In the end the amount of luggage will only increase. Then the villagers complaints will merely turn our way, don’t you agree?” (Renya)

The storage of [Inventory] certainly was convenient. But because the other people didn’t know the upper limit, by Renya’s estimation the villagers very likely wouldn’t be able to comprehend the situation as soon as the storage was full.

Such complaints as ‘Come on, you can carry a lot more, can’t you’ would certainly be directed towards them and as soon as Renya would decline it, they would turn their dissatisfaction towards his two female companions.

Even if I say so myself, that’s a little cold-hearted, isn’t it, Renya thought to himself while still wearing a rejecting expression. And yet, Shion still persisted.

“Abandoning our luggage would be alright as well though.” (Shion)

“That would only allow a little bit more to be added. It doesn’t solve the fundamental problem at all. Besides I don’t really know anyone properly, thus I want to prioritize Shion and Rona whom I am indebted to.” (Renya)

“That is … I am thankful, but …” (Shion)

“Shion, please leave it at that.” (Rona)

Unexpectedly such follow-up was brought up by Rona.

Because of her appearance and her occupation, Renya had thought that she would definitely support Shion on this matter.

However with a calm countenance and gentle expression Rona called out to Shion and placed her hands on Shion’s shoulders. Furthermore clinging to Shion trying to hold her back.

“If circumstances would allow it, Renya would be sure to help with everyone’s luggage, too. But unfortunately that’s not possible. Since not all of it can be taken with us, there is no way to avoid choosing which will be. This choice will give birth to unfairness, which may potentially be dangerous to Renya-san and us, and become apprehensions towards Renya-san. Therefore the option of not telling them about the [Inventory] can be called the best choice.” (Rona)

“Are you okay with that, Rona?” (Shion)

Shion asked while understanding the reasoning but apparently not quite accepting it. Rona expressed a slightly awkward smiled.

“Even though things may appear to be this way, I am still a priestess. If it was possible, I would want to help them. However, in the current situation that would be called something unreasonable. Speaking of not wanting to help would be very unbecoming of a priestess.” (Rona)

“That is … I hate it, but …” (Shion)

Shion was unable to give up and withdraw.

Well, they definitely are good people, Renya admired although he couldn’t put it in better words. He noticed Rona looking at him as if she wanted to say something while he was ruminating.

Even though Rona could say the necessary words, she wanted him to do it by himself. It was such a feeling.

Although Renya wasn't able to remember his own past. One could probably tell from his facial expression, that his ability to understand the emotions of others in relation to his perception could be called rather low.

This is completely different from the ability to predict an opponent's next move from their behavior and look in combat, it is a profoundly more complex ability, thought Renya.

For this reason, while he was able to keep showing a delighted smile in combat, he had no ability to read the mood or in other words he was ordinarily disconnected without questioning or thinking in depth.

His 94 years of experience didn't help him in any way in grasping the heart of others. Thus he was frantically trying to read Rona's expression and at last he succeeded in doing so.

Then, what in the world do you want me to say here? It surely isn't even more severe words of refusal , Renya thought.

Speaking of proper words for the sake of settling this situation somehow to make Shion, who doesn't want to give up, accept following …'

"If the usage of the void storage were to be seen, we would be liable to unjust suspicion for being able to carry even more." (Renya)

While slowly building up his words, Renya was pondering whether he somehow got the wrong idea. For a fraction of time he threw an inquiring glance at Rona seeking direction as he continued to talk.

"However, as for helping to carry the luggage, as anyone can see it is easy to understand that there is a limit to carrying luggage." (Renya)

"Un … ?" (Shion)

Shion was puzzled about what Renya wanted to say.

As for Rona, her smiling expression didn't crumble for an instant at all.

Since it didn't seem like he made a mistake with the direction his talk was headed, Renya continued.

"Fortunately our luggage has already been stored away in the void storage causing us to be lightly equipped. Also, the villagers are not aware of the fact that I am a possessor of the ability called void storage." (Renya)

"Un" (Shion)

"To enable the carriage to deliver the letter faster, filling it up with luggage had been postponed, only the important luggage had been loaded. I am certain that all villagers will be able to cooperate this way." (Renya)

"That is …" (Shion)

Before Shion could say something, Rona clapped a hand on her chest. *pan*

"I see, if that's the case this unreasonable situation will calm down and disappear, too. All the villagers will be eager to cooperate with us since the method is easy to understand." (Rona)

"Although it might be cunning, I still suggest this as a compromise. What do you think?" (Renya)

Even though the words were directed at Shion, they were directed at Rona simultaneously as well.

Rona didn't lose her smiling expression, whereas Shion suddenly brightened up.

“I-Is that so? Certainly, if that’s the case, the villagers will be able to accept that this unreasonable situation is unjustified. And although it’s just a little, the villagers won’t get accustomed to always getting help. I will go discuss this with the village chief for a little while.” (Shion)

Finally showing a smile on her face, Shion jogged away heading towards her destination. *pata pata*

While seeing her back off, Renya muttered without changing his line of sight,

“May I consider this way of removing her hard feelings to be to your satisfaction?” (Renya)

“Yes, I shall offer you a perfect passing grade.” (Rona)

Hearing the sound of applause, Renya shifted his view towards Rona.

Rona was clapping her hands in front of her chest *pachi pachi* while she was smiling. *niko niko*

Because he couldn’t judge the situation in any way, Renya cocked his head in puzzlement while pondering the matter in his mind thinking about the words that were spoken.

“You don’t really think that I followed-up properly, do you?” (Renya)

“Going by the appearance and conclusion, it was in tune with Shion’s opinion, no?” (Rona)

With no feeling of tension, Rona answered without changing her tone being somehow carefree. And yet, even if it was just a little, Renya felt that the mood she emitted had obviously changed.

“Because I am a priestess, I’m not a reasonable realist and unfit to be one in this situation, too.” (Rona)

“I thought that priests always rely on the name of god in situations where it is convenient.” (Renya)

“Ah haha … It seems to be necessary to have a proper discussion soon, isn’t that so, Renya-san?” (Rona)

Feeling the slight provocation, Renya picked up on the little amount of anger mixed in Rona’s words. However she immediately returned to her normal calm voice.

“There is a god. The works of god are entirely real, too. However, after all, people themselves are not really ready for the words of God. While it may be true that I am studying Healing magic, there still is an innumerable amount of people I can’t save.” (Rona)

A shadow darkens Rona’s expression.

Most likely she had experienced something in the past which caused her current expression. Renya waited for her to continue.

“The number of people who can be saved is limited. Priests are pious, sacrificing themselves for their doctrine. Thus they can’t devote themselves to just one thing. It is absolutely necessary to be able to conduct oneself to demarcation.” (Rona)

“I have a feeling that’s not all there is to it.” (Renya)

Renya said while scratching his cheek with the index finger. Rona stared at Renya with a slightly astonished expression.

That facial expression was immediately remade into the usual calm expression from before. Even so, Renya had plenty of time to notice the change in her expression.

“And, what do you mean by that?” (Rona)

“No, nothing, since my intuition won’t work any further than that. Without a foundation, saying anything else feels like stepping in too deep. Or would you tell me, if my conjecture was right or wrong?” (Renya)

“Hmm, what should I do?” (Rona)

“In addition, that is.” (Renya)

Renya inserted jokingly into her words while considering how to continue.

“Although I don’t know who said it, but I heard that a woman having a few secrets makes her more beautiful.” (Renya)

Being attacked in an unguarded moment, her expression visibly went blank. And then instantly her whole face floated a smile towards Renya and she retorted.

“Mind your own business. Even without secrets, Shion and I are beautiful women.” (Rona)

“Indeed, I was in the wrong.” (Renya)

Renya said while blushing as he had slipped with his words. Without loosing her smiling face, Rona nodded. *kokukoku* (T/N: That’s one dangerous woman fufufu)

<– Previous Chapter Next Chapter –>

Chapter 10 – It seems we have finally arrived at a human habitat

Just a slight note: I have seen another translator adding the the romaji version of the katakana for certain words like cities or names as additional note behind the English used name. I like that idea as it gives the reader an idea how the Translator got the name from the phonetic word. Thus I will keep it for this and the other series'.

The commercial city Kukrika (T/N: >> Kukurika <<) belonging to the principality of Triden (T/N: >> Toraiden <<) was a mid-sized city boasting a population of 10'000.

There was no special local product which particularly stood out in trading.

However, as if in order to not put the name of a commercial city to shame, the trade being done at this place was prosperously flourishing.

The human and demon territories were separated by an enormous forest and since it was the town closest to that miasma-filled forest, there was a busy coming and going of goods and personnel.

In proximity of the city there was a steep rocky mountain with a grim scale, which was likewise surrounded by a forest of reasonable size.

According to one legend, the rocky mountain was formed using one huge chunk, it was called 「Tomb of the Recluse」.

Although separated by a far distance from the miasma-filled forest, they seemed to be connected in some way.

That very forest was called 「Labyrinth Forest」 and it housed two dungeons.

From the rocky mountain a river gushed forth in one long straight line continuing seemingly endlessly across the human dominated continent until it at last flowed into the ocean. Because of the width and depth of the river, medium-sized cargo-ships were able to use it as traffic lane.

Hence, it was extensively utilized as cornerstone in the circulation of money and goods.

The water of the river was rerouted into the city dividing its roughly round shape by waterways into four parts and filling up the moat surrounding the city.

The four divided areas each held an own business district, a high-class residential area, a common residential area and a separated military ward. Those four districts completely adjoined at the city center where the feudal lord and the city mayor were residing in their mansions.

Furthermore there was a garrison ward ruled by the army.

The armed forces stationed there mounted up to 2000 soldiers who were under the direct order of the archduke of the principality of Triden.

They were highly skilled and possessed first-class equipment.

With the city hidden behind the moat, which was dug out to be considerably deep, coupled with a fortress wall, the

defensive strength of the city was extremely high.

In case of something strange emerging from the miasma-filled forest or in case of the demons waging war, this city's purpose was to act as a frontier base.

Similar to a stronghold, the city was encircled by a wall with no end.

From the standpoint of a commercial city this exceedingly insular disposition was a problem though.

In the past this city was dragged several times into war, yet it was never especially devastatingly damaged.

Apart from the troops at the garrison, the feudal lord governing the area possessed 100 soldiers himself and the city mayor held onto a private army of 50 soldiers.

Comparing their equipment and degree of training to the forces under the direct control of the archduke, they were several grades below.

The soldiers dispatched to the pioneer village were chosen from those 150 combined forces. That means, that from those soldiers, who usually were in charge of public order, 10%[1] were sent into the vicinity. Even though they were few, it was the most that could be spared.

That was the end of the explanation Shion gave Renya while they were along the way traveling to their destination.

That city is quite carefree, was Renya's impression.

Describing this places in words such as frontier base, there is no point in doing so for an open commercial city lacking any kind of tension.

In the normal case, an encircling wall naturally turns a city into a fortress, isn't that so? '

"Well, it might not be reliable, but the city has also been continuing in trade business for a long time. Furthermore, suiting the feelings of the citizens …"

All the same, the city is quite carefree, Renya concluded.

But even that carefree city had accurate inspections at the the two gates, east and west, being performed.

The people trying to enter the inner part of the walls had their identification and luggage checked in order of their social status serving the purpose to confirm whether there were any problems or not.

Next to the refugees from the pioneer village the guards accompanying them had the necessary identification papers with them and thus entering the city was quite simple.

The problem was Renya though.

"Please show me your identification papers." (Guard)

A guard, wearing a plain leather armor and holding a spear, waved at Renya to hand over the papers while asking him.

Renya not knowing what to say hesitated.

Naturally, him possessing identification papers for this world was unthinkable.

Yet, even if he answered that he was a Lost, he was troubled whether the other party would comprehend the circumstances or not.

In the worst case, he feared he might be recognized as foreign invader and be taken away somewhere.

Before arriving at the city, he should have confirmed the trouble with this kind of situation with Shion's group. Now you could only call it too late.

Renya's state of silence caused by his confusion about what to do, caused the guard to look at him suspiciously with a discerning eye.

Seeing that something was amiss, the other guards had gathered as well.

"Oi, what's wrong? Don't you have any identification papers?" (Guard)

"Umm well, to tell you the truth …" (Renya)

Wondering whether he had no other choice, Renya began to open his mouth to meekly tell them that he hadn't any.

It was then, that Shion's group, who had separated from Renya to return the luggages to the villagers, came rushing over.

"Sorry, I had totally forgotten about your circumstances. This person isn't anyone suspicious." (Shion)

"He is a bit unfamiliar with the state of affairs. I am terribly sorry to causing you trouble in any way." (Rona)

The spectacle of two beautiful maidens bowing their heads in apology caused the guards tension to fade.

Additionally it caught Renya's attention that the guards, after looking at Shion's appearance, showed a momentarily expression of surprise.

"We are adventurers belonging to the Adventurer's guild who were sent to investigate the miasma gathering in the forest. He is a Lost we stumbled across there." (Shion)

While saying this, Shion casually shifted her armor slightly and shoved her hand between her breasts taking out a card from there.

Likewise Rona tried to also take out a matching card from her chest area. In her case though, was it a difference of volume or rather a difference of the depth of her cleavage? Somehow the card didn't want to come out.

Twisting 'round in order to extract the card, her two hills shook up and down due to the vibration exposing a staggering sight. Stretching her clothes at the collar to somehow take out the card, the exposure of the flesh-colored surface was vast in comparison to Shion.

For a small amount of time Shion's fully exposed breasts and Rona's breasts shaking with a *burun burun* awoke the sad nature of the males.

Renya made sure to catch how the guards' concentrated stares were glued to Shion's breasts while pretending to gaze at the card's surface she had taken out.

A string was attached to said card allowing it to hang from the neck. Comparing it to his original world, it had the size of a business card. Giving off the glittering of a bronze or copper metal quality, several characters were written on the surface of the card.

Confirming it to be words at first, the characters used to write those words were unknown to him and yet he was still able to properly read the words.

Because it was handed over to guards almost right away, he wasn't able to read overly much.

What he managed to catch was, that the card was issued as identification by the adventurer's guild to verify the owner's affiliation, the owner belonged to the principality of Triden and finally that the name of the owner, Shion, was recorded on the card.

Only 「Shion」 was recorded in the name field.

There was nothing concerning the family name recorded on the card. Renya firmly engraved this within his memories.

At that moment, Rona finally extracted the card from deep within her cleavage. While floating an apologetic smile, she handed the card over to the guards.

Somehow an air of relief swept across the surroundings.

Renya secretly averted his eyes. For some reason Renya had a feeling that Rona had turned towards him and thrown him a fleeting glance.

"Confirmed. You certainly seem to be from the adventurer's guild." (Guard)

The guard verified both cards he had received earlier. After a slight hesitation he returned them.

Half of his feelings could be considered due to regrettable act of returning the two cards which were warm from being placed within the cleavages of the two beauties.

Of course that was a joke that couldn't be mentioned to others.

Yet again the other half was the doubt that there was a reason why he hesitated in returning the cards.

"He is called Renya. We will guarantee this person's identity. We intended to go to the adventurer's guild now to have him register so he gets a card as well." (Shion)

"Is that so? Then you better hurry up. Let me confirm the card once it has been made. Given that it is the rule, someone entering without identification papers has to pay one silver coin as fee." (Guard)

"Ah, thank you for your hard work." (Shion)

The returned card was stuffed in between the breasts again. Shion handed 1 silver coin to the guard.

"You may go." (Guard)

After confirming the guards authorization, Renya was led away by the two and together they set foot into the commercial city Kukrika.

"To begin with, Lost always cause similar trouble when trying to enter the city through the gate for the first time." (Shion)

Shion, who was leading the way, explained to Renya.

"You are a Lost. And not identifying yourself as one is a serious matter. How should I put it … Listen, if you don't understand, just be silent. Usually suspicious people will be restrained. Because the circumstances of Lost are known, it usually is possible to place the entrance fee as deferred payment. However, since the Lost don't know of such possibility, it is unreasonable to expect it to be completed smoothly."

"Isn't it a serious matter to take advantage of the Lost by posing as imposer?" (Renya)

It doesn't seem like falsifying one's identity will yield many advantages. While assessing it like this, Renya put on an

inquiring look just in case.

“Similar to this time, those, who possess legitimate identification papers, are able to guarantee. Otherwise, in case there is no guarantor, the words of the requester can be checked upon their truth. If their words are deemed to be true, there won’t be any problems and they can go on.” (Shion)

“How do you ascertain the authenticity of their words?” (Renya)

“There is a magic called [2] which can ascertain it.” (Shion)

Renya was surprised about such unusual magic apparently similar to a lie detector.

While living in the pioneer village, it was also surprising to see the commonly widespread use of particular magic to create water or ignite a spark of fire.

As one would expect of another world, no matter how strange it was, it was still quite useful.

Speaking of useful, the same could be said of the card Shion’s group used in order to proof their social status in front of the guards.

According to Shion, it was the guild card of the Adventurer’s guild. The adventurer’s guild had a huge sphere of influence. Wherever one went, the card served as valid substitute for identification papers, at least within the territory of the human race, that is.

Almost extending across the entire nation, there didn’t seem to be any place where the card couldn’t be used.

Also, not only in the eastern continent of the human race, but also in the western continent dominated by the elves and in the southern continent dominated by a mix of demi-humen and beastmen the card was in circulation to some extent.

Still, as one could have expected, apparently the dragon tribe and the demon clan didn’t use the card at all.

Nevertheless, in total close to 60-70% of the entire continental area used the card as valid identification papers. Thus calling that card convenient was quite understandable.

Apart from this, there were also identification papers which were issued by the feudal lord.[3] Just that it was quite useless to obtain them, going by Shion’s words.

“It would be different though, if Renya decided to not move away from this city.” (Shion)

Deciding to settle down could be called a really attractive alternative.

But considering Kami-sama’s request to scatter the resources, it wasn’t possible to say that settling in one place was a good thing.

Even assuming he set up a base at some point in time, the option of leading a hikikomori [4] lifestyle didn’t exist for Renya.

“It is only valid for one province after all?” (Renya)

“Un, basically the pass issued by the feudal lord is only valid within the province. The one issued by the state is only valid within its borders.” (Shion)

“Though for common people it is quite sufficient if you consider that they don’t need the excessive traveling of adventurers. Assuming Renya-san similarly wishes to make a living by being an adventurer, then you shouldn’t

hesitate about obtaining the guild card, you know.” (Rona)

“Because of that very reason, we are guiding you to the adventurer’s guild first. We have to report about the accepted request, too.” (Shion)

Recalling the subject of reporting while speaking about it, Shion’s expression got heavy and gloomy.

While hardly being able to investigate the forest itself, unpredictably their subjugation target, the goblins, spilled out from the forest. The result was the destruction of the pioneer’s village.

Almost certainly they won’t get any request reward. If things didn’t go well, it wasn’t unthinkable that they might be charged with some kind of penalty due to the failure of the request, too.

Conversely, Rona’s smile didn’t falter at all.

Contrary to the pessimistic Shion, she blamed the failure to investigate the forest itself on the hindrance by the accompanying party.

On the grounds that the village was destroyed, she pointed out that originally in such case it wouldn’t been strange if they had been totally annihilated.

From the standpoint of letting about half of them getting away it was above all a success since more than 100 goblin bodies from those overflowing from within the forest had been cleaned up, too.

Thus she didn’t seem to consider it to become such a particularly harsh issue.

Renya himself wasn’t overly eager to go to the guild either, if one asked his true opinion.

At the time he met Shion’s group, they were attacked by six ruffians. The matter which led to their deaths and the handling of their dead bodies wasn’t anything he wanted to report.

Furthermore, Shion’s group implicated that he might potentially be restrained to some degree.

Since the situation was as it was, he considered the case of him getting rid of the six people as trivial. As for the restraint of being a criminal, he would ask them to pardon it.

If it was possible, Renya felt like playing dumb and fleeing. Doing it that way, it would be necessary to part from Shion’s group and depart for another city.

Although, in the first place on top of reporting about the matter on hand, Shion’s group would report that the person concerned ran away, too.

Thus escaping to another city would very likely cause him to fall into a similar situation, which would put an end to his simple plans.

I will escape once the issue gets too troublesome, he decided.

For now I will follow their guidance as is, since I have no choice but to go and have a look anyway , Renya leaked a heavy sigh.

Translation Notes

1 Let’s not get into math, okay? ^^

[2] 審議 … “Shingi” … literally translated it would be something like deliberation but that doesn’t fit the context. Picking apart the kanji, the first means something like trial/judge/hearing and the second consultation/deliberation. The consultation of a judge would mean Judgement … that’s my take on it fitting it slightly into the context. If I am wrong, feel free to correct me here.

[3] Probably a context error by the author as he wrote nation/state there which wouldn’t fit with the following story flow.

[4] People who shut themselves within their room/apartment reducing contact with society as much as possible.

<– Previous Chapter

Next Chapter –>

Chapter 11 – It seems to be an adventurer's guild

In the business district there were various establishments. After merely a glimpse the streets seemed to be identical. Bars and shops similar to general stores were lined up in a row. No difference could be found between them.

Although acquiring directions beforehand, Renya would have been lost without someone leading him. He couldn't find the building he was aiming for.

Within his mind Renya had a preconception of the organization called the adventurer's guild. Something like: Somehow brawny and aroused with muscular ossan-tachi[1] smelling of sweat and manliness, brandishing their weapons and wearing armor extorted from apprentices who just joined the guild.

A dim store interior shrouded in smoke, where people had dubious conversations in *goso goso* sounds. In no way was it a decent organization. (T/N: That imagination of his made me laugh for several minutes. xD)

Guided by Shion's group they turned up in front of a building. A crest of a sword and wand crossing was displayed above the entrance.

A conservative signboard with the title 「Adventurer's guild – Kukrika branch」 written on top was lonely hanging there. He determined that it was a normal building.

This might have potential, Renya judged.

This is not such a suspicious organization as I originally thought. If I had to define it, it has a gentle feeling.

*Truly, I don't understand how the hell they want to secure combat potential. An Onee-chan who fully exposed her skin, a few taciturn, expressionless female magicians with rough bodies and an ikemen who excelled at using the sword and could use some additional magic. Enemies of such a game would certainly emerge right away, sending claims via mail to the management since the hero would be a protagonist going *kya kya* and *fufu.*[2] This seems to be such a place. You can't really call this an adventurer's guild.*

In this case I could judge myself to be totally out of place here. I don't think I want to stay here for even a second longer.

After coming to this world, Renya had not yet had the chance to accurately confirm his own facial features.

The glass in the pioneer's village didn't resemble a mirror at all. He also missed his chance to ask Shion and Rona to lend him one.

Although it was also because the situation didn't allow him to spend any time on such matters, either.

He only had absolute confidence in one thing.

That is, I am not the type of man you would call an ikemen, apparently.

*For this reason, I am not resembling a hero protagonist going *kya kya* and *fufu* with his harem party causing him to be plunged into hesitation and then to reliably finish with a happy end at all.*

In such an extreme case, most likely I would probably feel depressed being compared to the high-level surroundings

while being so low-level myself.

As for this, at the time I was sent to this world, should I have asked that little girl kami-sama to transform me just a bit into a fine-looking man?

Pondering as far as that, Renya suddenly noticed.

*My memory concerning my previous life was supposedly erased by that little girl. Where in the hell did I learn this *kya kya* *fufu* stuff?*

Moreover I now suddenly understand that there was some problem in my previous life , Renya felt.

Maybe I might have been one of a less overly upright race.

Such a race who escaped the three-dimensional world to immerse themselves in the two-dimensional one without being able to take a stroll outside and seeing the sun shining before them.

If that was the case, what a useless way of passing my time up until the age of 94 that would have been.

“Renya … although I don’t know what you are thinking about, doing what appears to be writhing and kneeling at the edge of the street … you are becoming a nuisance for the passers-by.” (Shion)

As she was unable to watch Renya’s eccentric behavior any longer, Shion called out to him.

“No, I don’t want to go to the guild after all.” (Renya)

“After coming all this way? If you don’t register at the guild, you won’t be able to properly settle your social status. Exiting and entering the city won’t be possible either. If you don’t process that case with the mercenaries neatly, you will possibly become a criminal which may go so far as you having to flee and go into hiding.” (Shion)

“I will manage somehow.” (Renya)

“Somehow nothing. Give it up. Now come.” (Shion)

Seizing Renya forcibly by the nape of the neck, Shion pulled him up from his crouching position. Without changing her hold, she made sure to drag him along while going through the entrance way of the guild building.

There was no point in trying to resist her strong power. Making sure to avoid passing through the street, she dragged Renya through the main entrance.

Rona gracefully followed right behind them.

“I didn’t want to come here either if it were avoidable. But it’s my mistake after all, and looking at it objectively it is absolutely necessary to report it.” (Shion)

“Such a way of thinking… I thought it was just a manner of speaking, but …” (Renya)

“What do you …” (Shion)

Shion’s words were interrupted midways.

Looking around while being dragged along as is, Renya saw something resembling a suitable reception area.

On the other side of the counter, there was a person wearing a uniform with a sharp, straightforward design. She looked slightly older than Shion’s group, yet it was still a young woman with brown colored hair who stood there while smiling.

“Eto … Shion’s and Rona’s party. We’ve returned from the request in the miasma-filled forest. I would like you to receive the report.” (Shion)

“Yes. Please wait for a moment while I examine the records.” (Receptionist)

After saying this, the woman at the reception counter took out something like a register and looked through it while turning the pages.

Renya used the chance to let his eyes wander over the interior of the guild.

In contrast to what Renya had expected, there was nothing that looked like a gloomy bar-room. Sunlight flooded through a huge window to maintain the brightness within the room. It felt like a pleasant meeting place.

Bookshelves with something like documents organized within, a bulletin board plastered with request labels, a place used for meetings and appointments, a counter offering light meals, several tables where one could eat and drink. Such was the design.

The people coming and going also, there was nothing like a harem party which had worried Renya before.

People with the air of veterans wearing reasonably worn-out equipment and youngsters clad in brand new gear. The ratio was about fifty-fifty.

The gender ratio also was praiseworthy as it didn’t really tilt to either side. Many of the guild staff members apparently were women. It went to such a degree that you could say the scales of gender distribution was slightly slanting towards the majority being women.

“Eto… ‘Investigation of the miasma-filled forest’ request, right? …The records state the request was accepted by 8 people. Is that correct?” (Receptionist)

“Ah, it is necessary to report some things about this matter …” (Shion)

As it was difficult to talk about, Shion didn’t seem eager to explain. After thinking for a moment, the woman at reception said,

“It appears that there was quite a bit trouble, huh?. That way, an inner room has been prepared.” (Receptionist)

“Understood. And, this person who is accompanying us is involved as well. But before that, he’d like to go ahead and register at the guild. Can I leave it to you?” (Shion)

In the state of having the nape of his neck tightly grabbed by Shion and being held up just like a cat, Renya was shown to the woman at the reception counter.

Coming as far as this, there is no particular need to try escaping , Renya though while having the nape of his neck held tightly. He raised one hand.

“Hello there.” (Renya)

“Hello in return. It somehow seems to be serious…” (Receptionist)

The woman at the reception counter wasn’t perturbed at all. Renya sensed her professional personality.

Come to think of it, from the beginning the smile of that woman hadn’t waned in the least.

“Somehow he seems to be a Lost. At least that’s what he declared himself to be.” (Shion)

“Ara, that’s also quite unusual.” (Receptionist)

Although there was a hint of surprise mixed within her voice, her facial expression didn't falter even a bit.

Even if they said it's rare, maybe there are quite a few Lost wandering around here and there? Renya became slightly anxious.

Having no memory of his previous world, he prayed to Kami-sama that there weren't any more people being Lost in this place in the same circumstances as him. Because he felt that his prayers had the strength to travel to the place of that little girl, he prayed for something different.

The receptionist stowed away the register below the counter in an accustomed manner. In exchange she took out one piece of paper.

"This is a registration application sheet." (Receptionist)

Renya accepted the document and roughly looked over it, as Shion had quietly removed her hand from the nape of his neck.

The words written there weren't overly difficult or different.

There were entries for full name, gender and age. Furthermore the guild rules that are to be followed as closely as possible written in the way an oath would be were noted down on the application form.

All that had to be said was covered with this.

"This is quite simple, isn't it?" (Renya)

"Because it would be unreasonable to write it in difficult words… If we went as far as using difficult words, almost no one would choose the road of being an adventurer." (Receptionist)

While nonchalantly smiling as before, she declared this.

That's the way of life, Renya thought.

Certainly speaking of the adventurer occupation, it might be somehow reputed to be cool. But it is a totally different matter altogether to say those words under the sun while puffing out your chest in pride.

"No, usually such things as investigations are mocked…" (Shion)

Unconsciously leaking his words, Shion rebutted glumly. He ignored her.

"I will protect the rules as far as it is practically possible. Will that be sufficient?" (Renya)

While he asked the receptionist, he filled out the full name entry with 「Renya Kunugi」, put his age down as a suitable 18 years and the gender as male. The woman at the reception nodded in agreement.

Rona, who spied on the age field, leaked a 「Ee~」 in a tiny voice without being aware of it.

I think maybe I should have considered to state myself to be older.

Since I am in truth 94 years old there would have been no reason to go and complain about it either.

"Absolute compliance to the rules is impossible." (Receptionist)

In the early stage after founding the adventurer's guild, there was a movement to implement a lot of rules to be kept, too.

However, as a result adventurers who were arrested for breaking the rules appeared one after the other.

The situation escalated to the point that it got difficult to dispatch adventurers for regular duty. After shaving away some of the rules here and there, it eventually became the current standard, explained the receptionist.

While thinking that it was a very understanding and agreeable organization, he moved his eyes to the rules written on the application form.

There the rules written as numbered items were indeed very concise.

First rule: Killing fellow guild members is strictly forbidden.

With the exception that there is a reason for it.

Second rule: The guild members offer their services only through the guild.

As for this, there are no limits on jobs being physical or consultation in nature.

Third rule: If something is unclear, consult the reception counter about the issue.

Fourth rule: Basically, the guild leader is the Law. (T/N: 4b: and if he/she is wrong apply rule 4a …)

In a branch, the branch leader is the Law.

“Only this …?” (Renya)

Come on, that’s just too simple. Renya, feeling visibly exhausted, inquired. The receptionist decisively nodded.

I fear that it’s likely that this exchange has repeated many times with new adventurers who just registered.

“Yes, only this… Did you really think I would say that? In reality there are a lot more rules with various details enlisted for each …” (Receptionist)

The receptionist let out a breath of sighing.

For some reason that small sigh carried a lot of anxiety. Without knowing why there was a slight stir behind Renya.

“Even if I asked all adventurers to remember all the rules, it would be impossible.” (Receptionist)

Although he didn’t know how to answer, Renya floated a subtle smile.

Maybe all the adventurers of this world could be described in such words as muscle-brains and baka, which could be said to have the same meaning. The fear that this might be the case emerged again within him.

“Because of this, the most important rules you have to take care of keeping are Rule 1 and 2. And at various places you will have to go with the flow and deal with Rule 3 and 4.” (Receptionist)

“For the time being, it is a well thought-out system.” (Renya)

“Then, with that being said, the application form is done for a Lost. Originally there are a few other application forms with entries to be filled in like birthplace and religious faith. I don’t think those apply for a Lost though.” (Receptionist)

After confirming the entries Renya finished by signing the written oath on the application form. Then he returned the sheet to the receptionist.

Could the information in the entries be leaked? Even though I say that, there are only 4 points written there. No

choice, I guess.

The receptionist verified the contents, folded the form and put it into her breast pocket on the uniform.

“Issuing the card will take a bit of time. During that time, please move to the room that has been prepared in the back.” (Receptionist)

The indicated door was on the other side of the counter. On a first glance it was an ordinary door.

However, just looking at that door, Renya felt something unpleasant causing him to frown.

Shion’s group didn’t notice this change of facial expression.

“I have no motivation to head over there but I guess it can’t be helped… Who is on the other side of that door?” (Renya)

“The vice-guild leader is waiting.”

“Is that so? …Renya, you are more or less related to the situation in the report as well. I would like you to go inside with us. Do you mind?” (Shion)

The behavior of Shion, who asked the question, seemed somehow apologetic.

“I don’t mind, neither do I care. That was the intention from the start, don’t you agree?” (Renya)

Renya replied with an expression of ‘Isn’t it a little late to ask that?’ Shion nodded slightly.

By the way, Rona still expressed a smile in this situation. Up until now there really were no signs showing of it breaking down.

“Although that’s true … Because the other party is a companion, I wanted to make sure you were ready.” (Shion)

With merely this brief comment, it was plainly visible that Shion’s group didn’t want to go and meet the person waiting on the other side of the door.

“Maa, the situation is similar to a ship that has already sailed.[3] ” (Renya)

“Thank you … we will make sure to not cause too many additional troubles … although we can’t promise it definitely.” (Shion)

Listening to the sound of earnest worry within Shion’s tone, Renya started to seriously consider securing an escape route.

Translation Notes

[1] Group of middle-aged men.

[2] Renya basically means that any game protagonist who chooses a party from the current selection would most likely be an unlikable, easygoing pervert, which would lead to a torch and pitchfork revolt by the people who

purchased the game. So Renya's initial impression of the guild is quite low for an organized "military" structure.

[3] It has already happened, so there's no helping anyway.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 11.5 – It seems to be Interlude 3

“What is such a peerless state called?” (Giliel)

While watching the battle scenery on a displayed translucent window suspended in midair, Giliel (T/N: >> Girieru <<) murmured in admiration.

Displayed was the scene where Renya was fighting the goblins at the pioneer’s village.

Right in the midst of the gathered goblins, Renya’s expression was bloodcurdling as he brandished his roughly formed axe. Or rather his lips could be seen to be curled into a thin smile as he was wielding his weapon.

Grasping the weapon with both hands and brandishing it in intervals, such things as the goblin’s heads, arms and other things were pathetically whirled into the air due to the strength of the impacts together with the spraying of blood.

In the right upper corner of the displayed terminal screen there was the word 「ＲＥＣ」 visible. Even if it was a recording, it wasn’t clear who was the one doing the recording for Giliel either.

“This degree can’t be really called peerless, now can it?”

was answered in cold words.

The one answering and looking at the same terminal screen was the little girl kami-sama. Giliel inclined her head to the side in doubt to the contents of the her remark.

“Such a degree?” (Giliel)

“Regarding the results of this battle, Renya has slain one Goblin Leader and 87 goblins, right? Such a result is an easy feat for intermediate-ranked people in this world.” (Chibi)

If the little girl was right about this, it came down to Renya cleaning up 80% of the goblin horde attacking the pioneer’s village by himself from the start.

Assuming that this was the truth after careful examination, it can be said with certainty that the little girl isn’t telling a lie. That’s a considerable battle result for a single person, Giliel thought.

Rather, won’t it be quite a conspicuous performance for an inhabitant of this world trying to achieve the same result so easily, even while possessing the ability of an intermediate rank?

Of course, if Giliel were in the same situation, she had the confidence to end it in an instant even if the amount of enemies would increase by a some hundreds. But then again it would be a mistake in itself to compare this with such a precondition.

“He didn’t use any magic and neither did he mange to master the skill I gave him. In the first place, that weapon goes beyond poor quality. Firstly, considering the combat ability Renya displayed in his previous world, it had a more stylish and agile disposition. In the end the erasure of his memory apparently led to a certain extent of a blank state in regards to his battle experience. I guess, I went slightly too far there.” (chibi)

The little girl was harshly rebuking him with her words.

Isn't it your fault that he lost those two, memories and weapons, in the first place? Giliel felt deeply like saying this to her but managed to endure keeping silent.

As a matter of fact, reflecting on the data Giliel possessed about Renya, just the skill allowed him to possibly overcome the resistance of about 100 goblin opponents with only brute force without using any of his other abilities.

The skill allowed a person to recover from a received injury and lost stamina several tens of times faster than usual. It was a more or less ordinary Invoked type of skill. It was a skill that had to consciously be activated to display its original performance.

Renya wasn't very good at 「using」 this skill by intuition. You could say that he was using it at its minimal effect of invocation as it wasn't actually accompanied by a real feeling of the skill.

"Related to the weapon, Giliel, I thought I had entrusted this matter to you, hadn't I?" (chibi)

Being pointedly stared at, Giliel suddenly broke out in a cold sweat. In order to not show her startled facial expression, she quietly bowed her head.

"The timing wasn't right yet. I am very sorry." (Giliel)

She swallowed the words, that she couldn't imagine a good timing for that in the first place either.

"Oh well, it's fine. Please hurry as much as possible. I wouldn't be able to stand watching Renya-san die because his weapon was insufficient." (chibi)

"Yes, I will take the necessary measures immediately. All things considered…" (Giliel)

While the image displayed on the translucent window changed from the battle scene to the gate of some city, Giliel searched for the right words to change the topic.

Although she didn't intent to slack on her assigned job in the least, being repeatedly called an amateur by the person in charge wasn't amusing at all.

"The situation seems to be advancing smoothly enough." (Giliel)

"In this world 'Lost' themselves are not at a level of being called a rare existence either, but rather it's a reasonable degree of recognizing them as unusual, you know. However, that's the problem here." (chibi)

At the gate of the city, Renya caused some trouble with the provincial guards. As the women accompanying him managed to quell the situation so he could pass, the little girl watching this scene leaked a sigh.

Certainly, judging by the reactions of his surroundings, he was at best perceived as a somehow rare occurrence, despite him being a person of another world. The extent of rarity was far from astonishment and even further from confusion.

"Is there a problem?" (Giliel)

"It's a problem, for example that." (chibi)

The little girl pointed at the window.

The shown scene stopped.

"This scene is, the scene where a Lost tries to enter the city. In this case the reason for not letting him into the city is the lack of him possessing the identification papers representing his social status. However, the Lost is let into the

city without even understanding the issue with the identification papers. There is even the exemption of him not having to pay the toll even though he is someone not holding the proper identification papers, and yet he succeeds in entering." (chibi)

Usually a person not holding any identification papers is taken to the guards office as a consequence in order to be interrogated. After the truth of their claim is judged, they will be issued temporary identification papers. Furthermore they have to pay a commission fee, the little girl supplemented.

Even in the case of a Lost, if there is a guarantor for their identity, they are supposed to loan the commission fee to the Lost.

"So what's the problem?" (Giliel)

"As for this, Lost don't know about these issues upon entering the city and are generally penniless to begin with. The inhabitants of this world are aware of this fact for sure since it's a kind of usual historical custom." (chibi)

'Do you understand?' the little girl asked with her gestures. Giliel was puzzled as she didn't comprehend what the heck was the significance of this matter.

In front of the difficult pupil who failed to understand the significance of her words, the little girl acting like a sensei heaved a single sigh and continued.

"The Lost caused something like a dispute at the entrance gate to the city as he doesn't possess the common sense of this world's inhabitants. In the first place, only a few days have passed since he came to to this world in this case. Do you think that people in this situation, unlike Renya-san and without calling out for anyone else to help them out, have the currency of this world at hand?" (chibi)

"That is… very likely they don't." (Giliel)

From the start Lost were people summoned from another world. You could say with certainty that they were people who dropped unexpectedly into a dimensional vortex ending up in this world as a result.

Naturally, the only luggage they brought along would be from their previous world, if at all. For them to originally have the currency of this world in possession had a possibility of about nil.

"Although one might ask the penniless to pay, it is plainly impossible for them to do so. Thus they are exempted from paying out of pity. That is the widely spread way of thinking in regards to this matter. The inhabitants of this world have many chances to get in contact with people from other worlds and that's the reason why it is a problem." (chibi)

"Um, that is…?" (Giliel)

Giliel repeated this basic question once more as she didn't grasp what the problem was.

If it is strictly regulated how to deal with Lost, then there won't be any pointless confusion and problems either. For the side sending in the Lost, in other words us, isn't that something beneficial?

"You still don't understand, huh? …If supervisor was inexperienced then it probably can't really be helped. In other words, the frequent amount of people falling into the dimensional vortexes and ending up in this world serves as proof of the fragile instability of this world." (chibi)

The image displayed in the window was erased with a swing of her arm. While using that hand scratching her head roughly, the little girl said while quite annoyed.

"What was the in Renya-san's previous world then? Wasn't there any? Maybe this could be used to fix the problem

of stability in this world as an example?” (Giliel)

“Certainly.” (chibi)

“The Supervisors[1] of that world should notice this issue as well. Although they have to be aware of it, they don’t seem to have a method of dealing with it either. Or maybe this problem is so insignificant to them that they don’t even realize it exists? That would be a big problem for sure.” (Giliel)

“Can’t you stop the leakage of resources?” (Giliel)

Because this was outside of Giliel’s jurisdiction, she was not fully aware of the details of this matter.

Concerned whether she should or should not inquire further, she was slightly hesitant to ask. The little girl showed no signs of trying to hide it and readily nodded in agreement.

“Since the amount of souls flowing out keeps decreasing, there is a trend of reduction. Still, as the leak hasn’t been completely stopped, the resources will be exhausted in the end.” (chibi)

“That’s a serious problem.” (Giliel)

As Giliel wasn’t able to actually feel it happening based on her own observations, the matter of dispatching Renya to a world that would be destroyed in the end anyway didn’t really relate to her in any way. The only exception was that she wouldn’t be caught actually uttering words like that. The little girl ceased to scratch her head and folded her arms.

“It’s serious indeed. Though it might be something that is not really of any consequence to someone here.” (chibi)

The little girl threw her a bitter glance. Giliel was afraid that she was able to read her mind. Of course, this doubt didn’t show on Giliel’s face even for a moment.

Even if the time he spent living was equal to about zero in comparison to the little girl’s lifetime, she was still an angel who had seen quite a few months and years pass by. She had mastered that skill to remain blank in such a situation better by far than any human.

Watching the unmoving Giliel with a raised brow, the little girl wondered how long Giliel would endure being glared at. Then she snorted as she got bored of it.

“Completely uncute…” (chibi)

“As the number of my years passed has entered the thousands, there is no reason for any cuteness to be left in me.” (Giliel)

As she returned an indifferent expression and abstained from openly showing any kind of emotions, the little girl clicked her tongue lightly and averted her gaze from Giliel.

“Anyway, Renya-san is scattering resources right now. There is no other choice but to stand back and observe how much the world will be able to recover.” (chibi)

“What’s the likelihood of recovery?” (Giliel)

“Although it’s not zero, it’s at the most a slim chance. Even if we assume it to advance favorably, it still would require about several decades of keeping up this pace. In the worst case the world will break down before Renya-san uses up his life span.” (chibi)

“In such a case, do I have your permission to rescue only Renya-san?” (Giliel)

Even though she considered it to be an ill-natured question, Giliel couldn't resist but to confirm it by asking this question with a serious expression.

For the Overseer of Everything, the little girl, it wouldn't do to give preferential treatment to a single individual.

Even if you counted in the fact that it was the little girl who sent Renya to this world.

'Renya, when this world perishes, you will perish alongside it.' No matter how much of a god you are yourself, that is not something you should ever say, she had concluded.

Even considering that, it would be a far too shameless and self-interested order to give, saving only one person in an entire world.

That's the sort of decision one agonizes over, right? She only thought.

"Yes, you have permission." (chibi)

Although the answer was short, it was immediate.

The contents were satisfactory to Giliel causing her to unintentionally lift the corners of her lips into a smile.

In order for the little girl to not realize this, Giliel courteously bent at the waist and bowed towards the little girl.

"As you wish. Everything shall happen as the honorable you has intended." (Giliel)

Giliel's shape slowly started to fade and, before long, vanished.

The little girl saw her off waiting for Giliel's presence to completely disappear. After ample time had passed, she abruptly muttered while looking at the sky,

"The die has been cast[2]… I wonder if I failed to give her a proper name… undoubtedly a bud of free will has begun to sprout in that serious girl… I wish that it would hurry up." (chibi)

The angels of the world generally had no name.

Although it could be said that it came from negligence of having to name each of the hundreds of millions of angels, in reality, giving a name was an important component of defining the personality above all else. There was such a reason as well.

Therefore, in order for some of the duties to be fulfilled a respective name was given to them. In order to abide by the command of protecting Renya, that angel was named as Giliel and it seems the foundations of her personality have begun to be laid. That's something that caused the little girl to worry as well.

"Is this good luck or rather bad luck? …Really, who suggested that kami-sama was omnipotent? I want them to slightly reconsider this after seeing my current state in this place. Good grief…" (chibi)

Throwing her head back while being at her wits' end, the little girl spit out those words filled with negative emotions. The sound of those words were lost to silence without having reached anyone's heart, including the little girl's.

Translation Notes

[1] Chibi-kami-sama is not speaking about mid level bureaucratic supervisors here, who would be giving instructions

to the guards, or processing paperwork, or even educating angelic subordinates. She is talking about the Supervisors of the planet that were suppose to be keeping things running smoothly. This entire process is a complaining comment on her part that the semi-deities she put in charge of the world don't understand just how crappy a job they are doing.

2 Literally, "the nail has been stuck in." Basically, "What's been done cannot be undone," which is not something an all powerful kami-sama should be saying!

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 12 – The deputy branch leader seems to be an unpleasant guy

Passing through the door they were directed to, there was a small bright room beyond it.

There were hardly any furnishings placed in the room. In the center of the room there was a lonely desk with two chairs facing it from across the table. That was all that was present in this room.

Incidentally, Renya picked up a weird sensation as he entered through the door, but he remained silent about it as Shion and Rona hadn't mentioned anything before entering the room.

Inside the room there was one man sitting on a chair.

It was impossible to determine his age from his looks.

His slender face was small with a pale colored complexion. His blond hair spilled down, exceeding his shoulders in length. His firm body build told anyone on the first look that he was male. However comparing him to the adventurers within the guild's building you could call him very slender, almost to the extent of being thin.

His eyes were narrow, giving off a feeling of being tired. [1]

One way or the other it was possible to perceive that the color of his eye were green.

The tailored robe he was wearing gave off a pleasant feeling and was colored navy blue.

No decorations could be seen on the robe except a single item appearing to be a silver medal hanging at the height of his chest.

"Yaa, nice of you to come to visit." (-)

Without standing up, he greeted them in a soft voice. Shion lightly bowed her head.

Also, as if being prompted into it, Rona bowed as well. Somehow Renya got the feeling that it wouldn't be a good idea to not follow up on it either and thus he bowed himself in the end as well.

"It has been a while, honored deputy branch leader"(Shion)[2]

While raising her head again, Shion spoke those words. Somehow her voice seemed as if she were squeezing them out though.

How to say it, it seems as if she doesn't want to talk to this person if at all possible – that was the impression her voice emitted but was that really fine? At any rate, it is quite obvious that she wants to leave this place even if it is a second sooner. Renya carefully observed the seated vice-guild leader while trying to ascertain the reason for her dislike to remain here.

"It's futile, Lost" (-)

Has he noticed my particular look of observation? The deputy branch leader shifted his attention towards Renya.

The gaze of his barely opened eyes emitted a deeper comprehension. It reminded Renya somehow of a snake or lizard or some other kind of the reptile family. Somehow Renya felt a cold shiver run down his spine.

“Well, just by looking, you won’t be able to understand why those girls have such antipathy towards me. After all, my outer appearance is perfect.” (-)

“Please teach me where this unfounded confidence comes from.” (Renya)

Laughing with a grinning face, the deputy branch leader appeared to really be a fairly gentle mannered man. His calm expression didn’t seem to have any faults either, or at least none that were easily seen through.

Yet, the degree of Shion’s impression of him appears to rank him as someone with a poor reputation.

How about Rona? Renya tried to read Rona’s facial expression. There he could only find her usual mask of a smiling face stuck there as it was, making a suitable judgment quite difficult.

“Since Shion and Rona already know about me, I should introduce myself to the Lost over there, huh? I am the deputy branch leader in charge of this adventurer’s guild branch in Kukrika, Fritz =[3] Rustbrid (T/N: >> Furitsu = Rusutoburido <<). Pleased to make your acquaintance.” [4] (Fritz)

“I am Renya. Leaving that aside, how long are we supposed to stand around here?” (Renya)

All three of them had entered the room and immediately stopped short without trying to approach the desk.

Renya stood still in a wait-and-see situation, while the remaining two didn’t seem to be interested in approaching the desk in the first place. Upon Renya’s words, they looked at Renya with an expression that seemed to be slightly threatening.

“To share a table with the deputy branch leader, there is no way I could do something so presumptuous.” (Shion)

“Why don’t you just frankly admit that you aren’t eager to approach me physically without saying such unnecessary things?” (Fritz)

Fritz completely cut off and disregarded Shion’s weak attempt to cover her refusal with sugarcoated words.

Shion didn’t see any reason to refute his words and thus remained silent.

With such behavior she proved Fritz’s words to be true.

“So you don’t deny it.” (Fritz)

“There is no such reason.” (Shion)

Laughter resounded from within Fritz’s throat while Shion gave a depressed reply.

Compared to Shion’s group, with all due respect, Fritz was still their superior. However, one couldn’t see Fritz taking an attitude of being offended by this obvious considerable discourtesy either. If you had to say it, he wore a hint of amusement towards it.

For a moment, the thought of him being a masochist crossed Renya’s mind, but he denied this possibility himself right away.

If he thought about unnecessary things, he had a feeling that it would be visible on his face.

“This much is just the usual trifling exchange between us. Let’s hear your report, right? The request was to

investigate the miasma-filled forest. I heard the number, who accepted it, were 8 people. Leaving out the Lost, there are only the two of you here, isn't that right?" (Fritz)

Such an exchange is the norm, huh? Renya felt dejected after hearing this. *Shion and Rona have become accustomed to this back and forth exchange without obviously minding it, huh?*

"The other six people attacked us within the forest while we were investigating. Upon chance we received Renya's help there which is also why he is currently accompanying us." (Shion)

"Ah, I can somehow understand. Excluding your personalities, you are beautiful women after all. With the setting of a secluded forest, devoid of any people, it is quite understandable that the outnumbering men would take such an attitude in such a situation, too. If they knew about the personalities of the women they targeted, they likely wouldn't have resorted to using violence either, though." (Fritz)

He repeatedly made such similar comments, Renya thought in disgust.

Directly confronting Fritz, Shion limited herself to scowling at him. Staying in the back, Rona began to spill killing intent while concealing it behind her still smiling face.

While Rona wears no plainly visible weapons, you can never be sure what kind of skill with the various offensive magic systems she might be capable of using, Renya judged.

Although he had only accompanied them for a short time, he understood that Rona wasn't the type of person to attack without any reason. *I pray this impression of her won't have to be changed in this meeting,* he thought, too.

"And then? Those six people are?" (Fritz)

"After Renya defeated them, we returned leaving them alone back in the forest." (Shion)

"Hou? As many as six adventurers originating from the Mercenary Kingdom all by himself, huh?" (Fritz)

Showing something like interest for the first time, Fritz turned his gaze towards Renya.

It is quite clearly a gaze carrying a feeling of a rotten tongue taking a taste of you. It's quite true that it can't be helped if you are slightly disgusted by this sensation either, he judged in the end.

"I caught them by surprise. The other party was careless as well. It's not easy to tell what would have happened if I attacked them from the front. I was lucky." (Renya)

Although that explanation wasn't requested, Renya somehow had the feeling that it was wrong to stay silent.

Fritz showed his agreement to these words by nodding several times over.

"I see. I see. However, if that's the case, all three of you, not giving a care for the situation, decided to let six people of the same guild die without helping and returned. Is that how you can summarize it?" (Fritz)

"That's wrong."

Shion was at a loss for words.

Rona kept any comments locked within her heart and remained silent. Renya cut into the conversation by rebutting without a moment's delay.

Shion and Rona faced Renya with a surprised expression. For the time being he had to be careful in addition to keeping Fritz's attention. Renya took a single step forward coming out of Shion's shadow.

“At the point in time I had defeated them, two of them were already dead. It was clear that the remaining four would die before long as well. Therefore, anything related to those six people should be attributed only to me.” (Renya)

“Going ahead and putting forward such a suggestion, wasn’t it those two over there who told you to say this?” (Fritz)

“Even assuming that’s right, it was I who came along and intruded on the situation in order to rescue them. This caused the current scenario. You can say that it was I who made the final decision.” (Renya)

“That is …” (Shion)

Although Shion started to say something, she stopped her words halfway.

Looking back over his shoulder, Renya could see Rona placing her hand on Shion’s shoulder holding her back as Shion was trying to say something.

Somehow or other he was able to confirm that they left this situation for him to deal with. Renya turned back to Fritz.

“These are the facts regarding the circumstances of the situation. If there are any problems, please tell me.” (Renya)

Renya slightly stressed the “please tell me” adding an emphasis to the words.

Guessing the meaning behind it, Fritz expressed a smile.

“Problems, huh? …It seems you don’t understand a thing about the young ladies at your back.” (Fritz)

While sensing the anger of the two in the rear swelling, Renya appealed with his eyes to not say anything unnecessary while keeping his expression blank.

Renya wasn’t certain whether Fritz had understood it, but Fritz nodded slightly.

“As for the current exchange, there is no problem. The young ladies were attacked within the forest by the accompanying six men. This fact is no mistake either. There, you came along and saved them. There’s no problem with this either. And then you left the six people behind after defeating them. Whether that is really a humane thing to do, certainly all of you can reconsider this fact. However, I can feel sympathy towards this behavior considering that dealing with six male brutes who assaulted two women won’t invite a humane approach in dealing with them.” (Fritz)

Fritz cut off his speech at this point joining his hands together and placing his elbows on the table.

“This was carried out by you all following Shion’s leadership. But, at any rate, the reason for deciding how to deal with the problem is somewhat necessary.” (Fritz)

So it comes down to this, Renya fixed his gaze on the smiling Fritz while bearing a deep seeded disgust.

I fear that it’s likely that Shion’s group is included in the 「you all」 party for sharing joint responsibility. Shion’s group has broken the guild rules. But because a part of the circumstances were not their fault to begin with, there will be some kind of compromise. Although looking at it from this standpoint, it has an indication that there will be some kind of penalty imposed upon us.

Since I am not taking the full brunt, it shouldn’t be a big penalty, Renya thought while looking at Fritz’s smiling face.

At most it would maybe be working for free one time, huh?’

Having defended Shion from the beginning, I truly didn’t originally think that he would use this approach to deal with the matter of this current case.

“Such an incident may cause a decrease in your reputation though, don’t you agree?” [5] (Renya)

“Let me see… what are you talking about?” (Fritz)

It was Renya who couldn’t help but comment on this, but Fritz easily played dumb.

“In any case, everything related to this matter has been understood. The Lost won’t be restrained, either. Though I am not aware of whether there is any bereaved family which has yet to be contacted, I will tell them that they died in an accident after breaking the guild rules.” (Fritz)

“I understand. Thank you very much.” (Shion)

Behind Renya, Shion bowed towards Fritz’s words while her expression became stiff.

“And the request to investigate the miasma-filled forest? What’s the state?” (Fritz)

“Reporting. The situation within the forest is bad. From the fact that the Goblin Leader led his group of goblins to assault the pioneer’s village, it can be deemed to be obvious. Due to the increase in the monsters activity and the resulting danger from that, I request to be allowed to resume the investigation.” (Shion)

Wearing a hard expression, Shion raised one hand stopping Renya before he could say anything and reported without any hesitation. Fritz’s expression changed into a puzzled look.

From Fritz’s view, there was truly no reason to consider a Lost to step up in this situation.

“As evidence for the appearance of a Goblin Leader, the recovered magic core was submitted. In relation to the scale of the subjugated group of goblins, I think you will be able to understand by the amount of simultaneously submitted magic cores. From the raided pioneer’s village roughly half of the villagers could be rescued. I’d like you to evaluate the point of the rescue efforts even considering that it likely isn’t part of the request’s original contents.” (Shion)

“Half of them were rescued? Isn’t more appropriate to say half of them were allowed to die?” (Fritz)

“Half of them were rescued, is what I said. If we hadn’t concerned ourselves with their rescue, the topic would be about their total annihilation, don’t you think?” (Shion)

Remaining seated, obviously waiting for something more while watching intently with upturned eyes, Fritz’s expression didn’t change at all as he waited for the report to end. Openly looking down on them, Renya caught this gaze.

“Is anything wrong?” (Renya)

Urging him to reply in the same way, Renya inquired. Fritz shook his head left and right.

“‘It’s not what you said, but how you chose your words to suit the situation, isn’t it?” (Fritz)

“Well, those words don’t answer my question, now do they?” (Renya)

Renya answered curtly with cold words.

Fritz expressed a bitter smile and released his joined hands striking upon the table once with a *panto.*

“I see. I have received your report. It’s just as you said. It would be best to continue the investigation. Other interested parties will be recruited to continue the investigation” (Fritz)

“As previously mentioned, I think they accomplished their request with this, what do you think?” (Renya)

“The completion of the request is approved. It is fine to receive the reward at the counter outside.” (Fritz)

“We wish to express our gratitude for your understanding. Let’s go, you two” (Rona)

After expressing their thanks and having no remaining business left here, Renya turned his back on Fritz. Shion wanted to say something, but for some reason while giving an impression of satisfaction, Rona prompted both of them to head for the exit.

From behind, Fritz called out.

“Renya-kun, is it your intention to act together with these children?” (Fritz)

“Well, I wonder about that.” (Renya)

Without turning around Renya answered the question and left the room.

Watching them go, Fritz waited for the door to close leaning back while exhaling a single big breath. Suddenly he straightened his back and looked up to the ceiling.

“Well, well, the plans have derailed slightly… With this and that, I wonder if there was enough progress?” (Fritz)

Naturally, there was no voice answering him in the room.

Translation Notes

[1]Literally, “his eyes were hanging.”

[2] The words used by Shion from here on towards the Deputy Branch Leader are from the “Very Polite” section of the Japanese language, which has certain characteristics. One being that the sentences have a lot more words for the same amount of content, and another being that it’s hard to capture the depth of how self-diminutive and other personal praise is being given in a translation to a language that does not have a similar substrata of its vocabulary. Hence this note, and the universal frustration of translators the world over.

[3] = is the equal sign, not the number two

[4] “Yoroshiku” …can be phrased in many ways but generally it means something like “nice to meet you” or “my best regards.” I opted for a more formal way.

[5] Or less politely, “If people found out you were hiring rapists, then your reputation would take a severe hit, don’t you think?” In Japan, a flawless reputation is very meaningful, so suggesting that it would be damaged is a very useful method for having incidents quietly swept under the rug.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 13 – It seems to be an invitation

*This was one text heavy chapter with many long difficult sentences. Thus the delay, fried my brain halfway through, so had to take a break on Saturday. ^^*

The figures of the two suns set below the horizon and in return three moons rose.

In other words, it was the time called night.

Everyone began to slowly head home, almost all the shops closed and the daily city scape was replaced with the occasional drunken person roaming the streets and figures of people starting to head towards the amusement facilities.

The form of Renya could be seen within a building functioning as an inn and bar.

It seemed the public house's interior was lit by tallow candles while giving off an intensely scented smoke. The pub was already filled with plenty of guests who were in a hustle and bustle as they were already quite drunk. Eating a quiet meal in this situation of being surrounded by noise was impossible. As this appeared to be the usual state of the place, Renya decided to not mind it.

Originally he had intended to choose a more peaceful place, but in regards to Shion's advice, it was more or less the same in every pub with little to no differences. As he was told that the situation would be similar wherever he went, he decided to give up halfway. Shion's group decided to pick a pub called 「Peerless Illusion[1]」.

After the exchange with Fritz at the guild's branch, Renya's group got their reward for the investigation request at the reception counter, Renya received his guild card, and they submitted the collected magic cores. As soon as they finished their business at the guild, they immediately left the building.

After the magic cores were appraised and examined, they would receive the sum of the sales, the receptionist told them.

Verifying this, Shion gave her opinion of accepting this procedure in order to avoid the chance of encountering Fritz again should they wait around for the sales process to conclude when they could just return later. As for Renya, he wished to stay a bit longer in the guild to listen to the various stories, if he had to describe his feelings, and thus he was a bit dissatisfied by the early departure.

For the time being, he had only received a simple explanation and thus he tried to sort through the information.

1.) Violating the rules will lead to punishment.

The lightest penalty would be a trifling fine while the maximum would be capital punishment.

In case the offender escaped, there would be a wanted notice handed out to all guilds.

The intelligence network of the adventurer's guild seemed to be quite formidable. Since the establishment of the guild there has been no fugitive who managed to escape completely after being wanted. The receptionist told them proudly.

Once it reached the stage of being put on the wanted list, it didn't matter anymore whether the fugitive was returned

dead or alive. The people appropriate for the pursuit would receive a request from the guild. The request was profitable to the degree that it resulted in each adventurer going into a frenzy. Given that, it apparently became almost impossible to successfully escape.

2.) Adventurers got a rank.

The ranks were divided into seven levels named S, A, B, C, D, E and F. S was pretty much the highest rank.

Usually it was decided by ability, taking into account what degree of services they contributed to the guild to determine the rank they should get. To become a Rank S adventurer, almost heroic deeds were necessary, Renya was told.

Among the Rank S adventurers, there was another rank of SS created in order to distinguish those who particularly towered above the others in ability. As they were already outside of the standard, this was not thought of as a separate rank. Apparently there were currently only five people recognized as SS rank.

Although Renya wanted to obtain information on those five people, he was dragged outside the guild by Shion before he could manage to inquire about them.

By the way, when he asked Shion's group what rank they were, he received "F" as a reply.

Since it hasn't been long since they became adventurers, it was a natural state of affairs.

Of course the rank inscribed on Renya's guild card was F as well.

Afterwards, in order to replace the armor that was broken at the time of the attack of the goblin horde and for the sake of procuring a precise weapon, Renya, who was unfamiliar with this city, asked Shion to introduce him to a shop. At the recommended shop he obtained leather armor and a longsword.[2]

The whole set cost him 1 gold coin.

Renya didn't really know whether this was expensive or cheap in relation to the typical market price. As it could be seen as an item that would be frequently used, Rona stated "Maa, it's proper equipment." and Renya decided to believe her.

In relation to the quality, Renya examined it with his appraisal skill. Both seemed to be typical grade 2 goods on the market.

Although Shion recommended metal armor with zeal, Renya politely refused considering the troublesome weight that would impede his movement and the high price he wouldn't be able to afford, and thus would have no advantages over leather.

Renya had wished for a much better weapon, there was nothing else than this according to the shopkeeper. So he had no other option but to give up on obtaining anything better.

Obtaining the longsword, it wasn't easily discernible whether it was produced to be used for smashing and crushing rather than cutting after all. The way the steel was manufactured was obviously very rough upon inspection with Renya's eyes.

First of all the mass of steel was heated up, then it was stroke into the form of a sword. This level of weapon was a typical thing for this world. *The probability of me finding an appropriate weapon is quite low, huh?* Renya assessed with a foul mood.

Luckily, as he would travel this world, there surely would be someone who has received the blacksmith skill from the

little girl. *If I don't make one myself sooner or later.* Renya recalled in a corner of his mind.

As for the payment, he used the money that was stored in his [Inventory].

After mentioning that she would loan him the necessary funds, Shion saw Renya take out the gold coin and obviously was wondering where he had obtained it with strong curiosity.

Now that you mention it, the Lost come to this world by accident, so they naturally don't have any of the currency used in this world on them. Because the money for selling the magic core hasn't been paid out yet, it must appear to be a strange matter for others to see me possessing money of my own.

How should I answer this? Shaking his head after turning around, he began an awkward explanation of him finding some money laying on the ground at the time of him coming to this world and picking it up.

Renya himself thought that she wouldn't buy his story so easily. Unexpectedly, Shion easily believed the story and said that even if the gold was the lost property of another person that it would be appropriate to spend it.

Too easy, passing that story off was too simple, or should I rather say she is too trusting in regards to matters she doesn't know about? That's quite worrying in itself. Renya thought in the end.

"Renya, first off I want to properly thank you." (Shion)

To the raised voice, Renya returned to reality from within his own thoughts.

Turning his eyes to the one who spoke, Shion stared at him silently with a humble expression.

Shion was seated on the opposite side of the table.

Next to her, Rona was sitting with her usual smiling face.

Before he could open his mouth to ask "What do you want to thank me for?", a hand appeared next to him placing the food on the table while he was wondering.

When he had ordered his dinner, he had left it to the shopkeeper and thus he got the special of the day. It was something as simple as soup with bread and salad, too.

The salad, the name of which he didn't know, was properly filled with vegetable leaves. Although the only seasoning was vinegar and salt, the vegetables themselves were delicious. Tasting the food resulted in Renya being satisfied. The problem was the soup and bread.

The soup had some vegetables and small pieces of smashed meat in order for it to cook together well. Because there was little salt in it, the taste was rather thin.

The bread was probably only baked using wheat. It was hard to the degree of being difficult to chew. Dividing it and soaking it in the the soup made it possible to eat it. The bread itself had no flavor at all, the soup was thin, making the whole thing plainly unappetizing.

In the time of waiting for the relief squad arriving at the pioneer's village, the villagers offered him a similar bread to eat. Partially he had hoped and anticipated to eat more delicious food in a human habitat. Thus his disappointment was immense.

There is plenty of room to improve on the quality of the food, huh? Renya sighed.

"So, what were we talking about?" (Renya)

“Our gratitude, gra ・ti ・tu ・de!” (Shion)

Spending time on stressing the last word, Shion bend herself forward while raising her voice. Renya looked at her colored with doubt wondering *What’s this person saying?*

Unable to just watch this situation any longer, Rona pushed into the conversation.

“It’s about the exchange with Deputy Branch Leader Fritz.” (Rona)

“Ah, that matter? There is no particular need to thank me for that, is there?” (Renya)

Having easily given up on eating the disgusting bread, Renya tasted the drink he had ordered alongside the food.

It was something called ale, it was a drink that appeared in the same manner with the same name in his previous world. The sourness was stronger than the bitterness. There weren’t many bubbles rising to the surface either.

Frankly said, this was quite disgusting as well.

Furthermore, since it was served lukewarm, the distaste doubled.

Really, are there any delicious things as the little girl claimed there to be? Renya ended up having such suspicions.

You might say that it will be like losing half of life’s enjoyment if that isn’t the case.

However, it is a fact that delicious things are expensive no matter which world or era you are talking about.

Therefore, if I have even a 0.001% chance to obtain delicious things with money in this world, I won’t abandon hope, Renya decided.

If the time comes where this hope turns into despair, I will severely spank that little girl when I meet her again after my death.

“Eto, Renya? …” (Shion)

“It’s fine to not worry about such things. To begin with, on the occasion we were attacked by the goblin group, the investigation and subjugation were likely finished at that time. Thinking about making mistakes will lead to only making mistakes. Insisting on success will hinder those trying to deny it.” (Renya)

Neither the location of the goblin settlement in the forest, nor the scale of the settlement, nor how many goblin villages were about were required to be reported in the original request in any detail. Still this wouldn’t be able to give an excuse for their failure. He left those things unsaid though.

Although it was completely Renya’s conjecture from here on out, he somehow judged that the guild itself wasn’t overly interested in obtaining a detailed report to begin with.

From the start the party sent to investigate was a swordsman apprentice, a priest apprentice and six Hyahha[3] men. By no means was this a party composition geared towards investigation as its goal.

At any rate, even if you let non-specialized adventurers wander around within the forest, they would run into a goblin or such sooner or later since it was monster inhabited to such an extent. They could just hire a random party of 8 people and they would beat down some goblins to thin out the monster population even if it took a long time to do so. Most likely the guild harbored such dark thoughts.

In other words the expected degree of detail in the report was to meet a goblin, defeat it and return without causing any problems.

The request failed because it was impossible to properly investigate, seeing this in the final report, the guild wouldn't need to pay the reward and a proper penalty could be levied against the adventurers due to *their* failure. Or in other words, the guild would get a clear gain if the story ended up unfolding like that.

The virtue of diligence can sometimes be a decisive fault, in reality, as one can easily see in this example. It was this kind of story after all. Renya concluded.

"But, in my case, I couldn't have handled it like that. As a result, our evaluation didn't drop and we even received the full reward for the request. I am pretty sure that this is something to be thankful for." (Shion)

The virtue of diligence, being a virtue, if you remove the two characters 「くそ」 from virtue (美徳) it will merely become weakness, describing the situation like this is also true, Renya dropped his shoulders.[4]

Although I said 'thanks wouldn't be necessary,' I don't think they will simply accept that.

In that case the only question remaining would be what words to say in order to quickly end the subject, huh? Renya nodded his agreement to Shion.

"Understood. I gratefully accept your *words* of thanks." (Renya)

Renya stressed the "words" part of his answer intentionally as he saw Shion wanting to say something more in order for her to not say anything else.

Judging from Shion's character, she wanted to start talking about transferring some of the request's reward to him. Even if he didn't see any signs of that, it was easy for Renya to predict it.

"Is it really fine?" (Rona)

Intending to provide support, Rona asked this.

"The reward for the request totals to 12 gold coins. Accepting 4 gold coins from that amount would be fine, Shion said so as well." (Rona)

Although he wasn't sure when they had such a discussion, Renya clearly shook his head to convey that he had no intention to accept this money.

In the first place I didn't receive that request so I shouldn't get any reward either.

Even if they said they would give him part of the reward, there wasn't an ounce of intention within Renya to accept it.

"Even so, isn't the reward amount kind of high? Is that normal?" (Renya)

"Ah, it's the payment prepared for 8 people after all." (Rona)

The reward per person would be 1 gold coin and 50 silver coins, going by Rona's words.

Considering that going to the destination takes 2 days, investigating for 2 days, and returning afterwards takes 2 days as well, the whole expedition would be limited to 6 days. Or in other words, it would be 25 silver coins per day per person.

Assuming that it would be 25,000 Japanese yen in his previous world, that might be an appropriate amount of money.

Although it wouldn't have been necessary to pay the amount of reward money for those people who have died, the amount of money they would receive was decided upon accepting the request. In the case that the number of

people would decrease, it was normal for the reward to be divided equally among those remaining. Rona explained.

“With this the talk about the reward is finished. As a matter of fact, from here on out it will be about the real issue at hand for us, Renya.” (Shion)

Leaning deep into the chair and taking a deep breath in order to change the atmosphere for a moment, Shion was preparing to speak frankly about something important. Such was the mood Renya experienced while he waited for her to begin.

She will probably be bringing up some troublesome subject again, huh? At least this much is obvious from how she averts her gaze from mine. Renya silently waited for Shion to continue.

“To be honest… we want to invite you into our party and would like you to consider it.” (Shion)

“Invitation? Me, a Lost?” (Renya)

Come to think of it, I remember Fritz asked a similar question in regards to this matter at the time we were about to leave, too.

“Is it your intention to act together with these children?”

Most likely that could be called a bitter hint towards this invitation, huh?

If that was the case, Renya didn’t realise it at all. Assuming something like this, these two must have shown some signs of matters heading in that direction, as the guild leader was able to notice it. As one would expect of the person being employed as deputy branch leader.

He couldn’t reply at that time since he didn’t understand what it was about. Now that it had come to the people themselves inviting him, he was wavering in his decision as to how he was supposed to answer.

And above all, Renya didn’t understand why they were inviting him.

If you only thought about his combat skills, certainly he had defeated a large horde of goblins almost by himself. Looking at it that way, there could be no objection to his combat potential and thus he deemed it to be understandable.

However, Renya was a Lost, a person with a peculiar standing. He wasn’t an inhabitant of this world. Only having his identification papers due to the registration at the guild, he was an ambiguous being no matter how you viewed him.

If one were to measure how suspicious he was with a machine, the gauge would definitely swing towards Completely Suspicious.

Furthermore, he possessed none of the common sense of this world, and hadn’t a clue what affairs he was not to meddle in.

He would become a party member thought to be trouble in the making, such would be a being known as a Lost.

Given the situation at hand, Renya felt like speaking as he didn’t understand them.

Considering it normally, it wouldn’t be strange for the two girls to distance themselves from him immediately.

“Although we’ve known each other for just a short time, I think it will likely be exposed. I don’t know a great many things and I am not very intelligent either.”

For Renya, from the time he met Shion's group until now, he had harbored many doubts. Those doubts continued to exist unchanged.

In order to answer those problems, he had a feeling that Shion would address them directly. So Renya carefully listened to what Shion said.

"Just like the situation at the time with the deputy branch leader, we are not able to skilfully deal with such things. In comparison, Renya seems to be very experienced in how to deal with such situations." (Shion)

More or less, as I am a 94 year old man on the inside, even if I lost most of my memories. Considering this, Shion's group is just inexperienced and can't be compared to my own position. What face would Shion make if I told her that? Renya thought in a corner of his mind.

"Moreover Renya is strong… having you as a nakama[5] would be reassuring. We are just a party of two women, however thinking about us also working as adventurers, I have a strong premonition it isn't a good thing." (Rona)

Took you long enough to notice, Renya was barely able to hold back replying with such a tsukkomi. [6]

If people with just a little trust in each other gather, they won't be able to form a clique in the end unless there is a very powerful individual included. Thus there is no reason why normal adventurers would be able to simply do that.

Rather, although it was for a short period, coming across only two women can be called good fortune, the god of this world… with the exception of this world heading towards its destruction due to the lack of administrative ability. That little girl is somehow different, though. I should express my gratitude to the kami-sama governing somewhere in a far distant place over good fortune, is what he thought.

"At the time of the goblin attack, I judged you as a person I can trust, too. Although it was a situation where it wouldn't usually be strange for a single person to run away either, you helped us."

"I think that's the normal course of action, though." (Renya)

"Although that might be the case, I choose to believe in my intuition. How about it? If you become our nakama, we will teach you the various things you don't know. Of course, we will teach you about this world as far as we are able, as well. I think we will be capable of helping you before long, too. I don't think it's such a bad deal." (Shion)

Teaching me about various things … I wonder how much instruction will be fine. Such thoughts came rising up within his mind, causing Renya's lips to slightly curl into a small sneer.

Shion took it with a wry smile assuming a gloomy look as she was thinking it would be no good.

Although Rona's expression is a smiling one, her gaze causes one's temperature to quickly drop. You can call this a truly terrific display of skill. Renya observed.

As it is obvious now, I am pretty sure she is able to sense what I was thinking about. While Renya raised his right hand to cover his mouth, he considered what he should tell them.

"Ah, first off, I am honestly very happy that you want to invite me. I have no relatives and thus getting nakama would be a huge help. However, I want to consider my reply for a little while. Specifically, for about one night." (Renya)

"I see, that's true. Certainly one can't expect an immediate answer to such a request. After all it might be a subject that will majorly influence Renya's future from now on. I understand. Not hurrying is fine. We will hope for a favorable response." (Shion)

Having thought she would be refused, Shion completely changed and her face obviously cheered up as he was

willing to consider his reply.

The coldness of Rona's gaze disappeared. Even though it disappeared, he didn't understand what she was thinking about as the clinging smile on her face didn't change at all.

Well then, what should I do? While thinking that, Renya poured the disgusting ale into his throat in one go.

Translation Notes

1 The name in Japanese is "Banbutsu no Genei," which roughly translates to " illusion/vision/shadow of all creation/all there is/above all others." It is basically a VERY Chuunibyou name, and required a lot of work to make it NOT sound stupid.

2 nagadachi = "(ancient) longsword"

3 Don't ask me what that is.

4 Sorry, but this is the best interpretation of the sentence I can give as I don't know the Japanese language to comment on the character removal.

5 Friend/Companion … well those who watch One Piece know that it's a bit more than that.

6 Tsukkomi … another typical Japanese term coming from Japanese comedy routines where two entertainers interact with each other. One is telling something while the other intercepts with tsukkomis. Hard to describe it, so google it, if you want. ED Note: There is typically one "fool" and a "straight man," where the fool is doing or saying or retelling something in a manner befitting a fool. The straight man butts into the action to give a sharp correction to the fool, which is called a "Tsukkomi." It is a popular type of comedic act, and has been since the days of Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 14 – It seems to be a night assault

Is it past midnight? he thought without any kind of basis.

Since there was no clock, it generally was impossible to tell what the exact time was at present.

After the citizens fell asleep, different from his previous world, there was hardly anything you could call night activity in this world.

Because there is nothing making any sounds, nor anything to listen to, the silence becomes almost painful. Merely his own breathing can be heard quietly.

At the time he was at the pioneer's village, the dog or wolf packs, he wasn't sure which of them, living in the forest could be heard howling. In the city even that was missing.

The pleasure and amusement facilities had already closed down and everybody crawled into their beds as no decent people would be awake at this time. At the most there were the grumbled complaints of those who weren't permitted to leave their station which wouldn't be anyone else but the city guards.

While thinking about this situation, Renya was sitting up on top of his bed.

It was dark in his room.

Each room was equipped with a candle in order to provide a light source. Of course it was extinguished once the occupant went to sleep.

At the moment, the only light entering the room was coming from the sole window by the bright moon standing high in the sky and shining down its light upon the surface.

As the window wasn't overly transparent, it was difficult to clearly look at the sky.

Wasn't he feeling tired enough yet from the piled up exhaustion? Or did the bed not suit his tastes?

Apparently he wasn't able to fall asleep in a restful slumber.

Although he had also drunken some alcohol at dinner, his sleepiness hadn't increased at all. Also, he had only gone to bed as Shion's group had recommended doing so. The bed itself was more or less quite clean. But, for some reason or another he somehow didn't feel quite comfortable lying down on it.

After coming to this world he hadn't yet had a chance to take a proper bath which might also be a reason for his current restlessness. *While it's not to the degree that I can fall asleep, there is obviously some drowsiness firmly pulling at my mind*, Renya assessed.

It didn't particularly mean that Renya was a slouch though.

Just, as for this world's customs, the event of taking a bath wasn't a common occurrence.

Since that was the case, he wondered how the inhabitants of this world kept their bodies clean without taking a bath. Scooping up water from a basin to wash one's face and then use it with a cloth to wipe the body of sweat and dirt

seemed to be the standard method to keep the body clean.

Renya had recalled that he was a Japanese person in his previous world.

And so, just like the great majority of the Japanese people, Renya perceived the matter of taking a bath as a normal devotion.

But, he wasn't able to do that here.

It wasn't like baths were unknown here, but such things as gathering hot water to fill the bath tub just to soak the body in the hot water was something unreasonable for the common public due to the costs involved. Except for the apparent portion of rich people like the nobles and the royalty, Renya wasn't aware of anyone else taking a bath.

Although it was extremely unpleasant, he had no other choice but to put up with it for now.

Since he couldn't stand it, he had received a washbasin filled with hot water from the inn employee before going to sleep. Wiping his whole body with a cloth, Renya somewhat had the feeling of becoming slightly clean in the end. Since he couldn't use a bathtub to amply soak his whole body in hot water, his body didn't feel completely relaxed after all either.

There also is the urgent matter of improving my meals. After having tasted that dinner earlier, it is absolutely necessary to do something about the entire situation to significantly improve it, Renya uneasily grumbled about the future.

As he was thinking about such serious matters, he ended up completely perking up.

Thereupon, as if waiting for that chance, two soft knocks resounded from the entrance door.

For a moment Renya though he made a mistake in his hearing as he looked towards the door.

For a while there was a pause before there was a knock again.

Although it didn't seem like he misheard, Renya didn't remember having any acquaintances who would visit his room this late in the night.

Or rather, in the case of Renya, he had almost no acquaintances to begin with.

Talking about acquaintances, currently it would only be Shion and Rona.

He couldn't count in those he just knew by their faces and names either, which would apply to deputy branch leader Fritz, as he hadn't told him which pub he would choose as a resting place, thus he could be excluded from the possibilities.

Having done this selection by exclusion, it could only be either Shion or Rona who had chosen the same pub as him. However there was no way a young woman would visit the room of a male this late in the night.

They should be at least this careful, Renya thought using his common sense.

As he wasn't sure if it was usual to visit a man's room in the dead of night in this alternate world, he wasn't able to reach a definite conclusion on what to do.

If this is a little bit like what happens to protagonists of Light Novels, I should have somehow raised a flag with a heroine somewhere, no? Although he should be delighted about such a thing, Renya was unfortunately an exceeding realist and moreover a slight pessimist as well.

Since he had the conviction from the beginning that such a pleasantly embarrassing event wouldn't occur anyway, he couldn't help but feel that the late night visitor smelled like trouble.

From within the little luggage he had, he retrieved the knife he had borrowed for removing raw materials from monsters.

Gripping this drawn knife in his right hand, he moved to the wall beside the door that would conceal him behind the opening door from anyone who entered.

In reality he preferred to hold a powerful long sword as a weapon but there was almost no chance to obtain one at the moment. In that case this whole matter wouldn't be so troublesome. He would be able to instill a feeling of dread and deep seated doubt within his opponent with the drawn blade of a long sword.

After the second knock, there was no indication that the door would be opened.

'Still the person who had knocked earlier must be waiting on the other side of the door. Renya judged.

Cautiously gripping the door knob with his left hand, he talked in a small but still clear voice so the person other side could hear it.

"Who is there?" (Renya)

"Sorry for disturbing you this late in the night. It's me, Rona. I wish to talk with you for a while. If you don't mind, could you let me in?" (Rona)

The voice replying to him was certainly Rona's.

The person on the other side of the door was without a doubt one of his acquaintances even though he couldn't prove it. Somehow Renya got a strong feeling that some kind of trouble was approaching him and thus he grimaced.

If it were Shion, at worst, he could try to feign ignorance to the circumstances and deal with the situation superficially by saying that there is a chance of him losing to his lust if she came to visit his room, albeit the chance of that really happening were slim.

However, with Rona here it was a different story.

At first glance she appeared to be full of gaps in her guard but in reality there were no gaps at all.

Furthermore, based on her also being an apprentice priestess, there was also the point of having to be careful about her profundity in comparison to Shion around whom he didn't have to be quite as modest.

Such a woman visited the room of a man this late in the night.

There was definitely something wrong, or rather it was impossible that there was nothing amiss.

Because there was no way that it was nothing, nevertheless, as it was possible that they would spend a long time together as companions from now on, he couldn't treat her cruelly now either.

"The subject can't wait until tomorrow? I want to sleep, too. I'm tired." (Renya)

"It's a subject that has to be addressed now. Can I ask for your forgiveness for my unreasonable request?" (Rona)

Renya's tone completely carried the nuance of telling her to return to her own room immediately. Whereas Rona's tone gave off the feeling that she didn't intend to stand down at all.

Renya hesitated.

It was simple to firmly insist on her returning to her own room.

But that would cause Rona's impression of him to become worse which would lead to him having to decline Shion's invitation.

Certainly, Renya was still poorly informed about the circumstances in this world, but he was confident enough to somehow run across a person who could help him out in this regard.

Actually in this case, although he had asked for some time to consider it, he had come to the conclusion that immediately refusing would lead to a not overly good relationship thereafter. However he intended to reject the invitation itself.

If he already had to act together with someone, he would prefer it to be companions of the same sex as it would be more comfortable that way.

He shouldn't have to deal with the opposite sex one way or the other.

Therefore, the first thing he would do tomorrow, was to refuse Shion's invitation. He planned to go back to the guild in order to search for a party.

Moreover, Shion is somehow inexperienced and Rona is a person whom you never know what she is thinking , Renya judged.

Those two are hiding something and that will, with almost absolute certainty, lead to a lot of trouble.

This was the conclusion Renya had reached.

However, right then, this one dropped in for a short visit.

That is, I do understand the feeling of certain body parts no matter how withered my body might have been as I previously died peacefully at the age of 94 years as an old man. After all I can be classified as a man in the end. I know of the previous degree of entanglement due to my little finger.[1] He thought.

Well, how about freely declining all requests by women?

Renya didn't care about his own face at all when he was at the pioneer's village. He only started to do so after seeing the reflection of it in the water of the washbasin he had borrowed from the inn.

Black hair and eyes and an average personal appearance emitting a deep knowledge.

Easy to like and easy to hate, being acceptable as well as being improper. Such was the impression he received.

And at the pioneer's village I rescued them both and helped them even more, leaving a fairly good impression , he assessed with certainty.

The probability of her coming here to confess her love was like drawing the winning ticket of 100,000,000 yen from a 100 yen ticket. However he couldn't declare with absolute certainty that it wasn't so either.

"…No way." (Renya)

While Renya reached that self-conclusion at an abnormal speed, he decided to let Rona into the room.

There were two reasons.

First, even if Rona was scheming something, he predicted that he would be sufficiently able to cope with it.

Second, he didn't find any words to absolutely persuade Rona to return to her own room.

"Understood. The door is open. Since I have no intention to invite you, enter on your own discretion." (Renya)

"Kind and inviting words are troublesome, but since it can't be helped I will deal with you" were the undertone he conveyed to her with his reply. As Renya unlocked the door with the key, he immediately turned his back towards the door.

He placed the knife he held under the pillow on the bed. As he sat down on the edge of the bed a lewd smile floated on his face but he soon dispelled it after thinking about it deeply. No matter how much time passed, he didn't particularly notice the sound of the door opening.

Thinking that she wouldn't really wait for the door to be opened for her, Renya turned towards the door. Before his eyes Rona was standing with her usual smiling face where you never knew what she was thinking about.

I was careless. When did she come in? Thinking about this question, Renya was one step late.

Using that momentary delay, Rona used that chance to tackle Renya with her own body, pushing him down on the bed so he laid face up.

With a feeling of *What kind of joke is this supposed to be?* his typical train of thoughts caused Renya to be delayed in his reaction.

When he finally noticed, she had completely taken the mount position and thus finished pinning him down.

"Renya-san…" (Rona)

Renya's shoulders where held down with both her hands and Rona brought her face close to his in one go.

Still wearing her priest's garb for no good reason even in the dead of night, Rona had intended to tackle him right from the start. The appearance of her night-wear was only hindered by the string at her waist.

As the collar area was widely opened in comparison to her usual priest's garb, naturally the countenance of the swelling of her breasts which shouldn't usually be seen was sticking out halfway. Being in a straddling position, the hem of her clothes ended up revealing quite a bit of her thighs. The scene was definitely lascivious. Renya's pulse slightly increased.

"You do understand, right? …What kind of situation this is." (Rona)

"No, I totally don't understand. I don't remember having raised such a flag at all either." (Renya)

Rona took away the hands pinning down his shoulders in order to deal with the hem of his shirt.

No, that is definitely a bad idea. Renya thought as his shirt was lifted up in no time exposing his bare skin. Shifting her body position from his belly downwards to the hips, she used the transition to press her body down on his with its exposed skin in order to embrace him. While doing so, Rona's lips approached Renya's ear.

"After doing this much… do you intend to make me say it?" (Rona)

As the body parts touching each other increased, the transmission of the heat, tenderness and weight weren't hindered by the clothes at all. Renya's reason easily went flying. The still remaining composed part of it that was dwelling deep within his mind cried out "It's a trap! It's definitely a trap!"

Opposing this was another part of his mind, calling out "Even if it is a trap, there is nothing to dislike about it."

As he had no experience in how to deal with women, he reached the conclusion to simply go with the flow. “How far do you intend to go in the end?” he heard the barely audible voice denying his conclusion.

Being surprised at that, he decided to follow the calm voice within his mind rather than the desires of his own body. He crushed Rona’s strength with the power of his own body.

Attacking her in her unguarded moment, although he was laying facing up, it didn’t mean that Renya was completely defenseless.

Struggling several times, he tried to escape from under Rona at least. As her arm was locked in embracing him glued their bodies together and pressed him down, she didn’t allow him to escape.

In case of a simple contest of power, there was no reason for Renya to lose to Rona. However, their bodily positions were to Rona’s advantage in this situation.

It is impossible to pull her off, huh? There is the recoil of delivering a blow to her, too. I don’t understand what Rona is aiming for with the present situation. Renya didn’t care about the methods anymore.

“Please don’t act so violently, Renya-san …You can let me handle it. I will make you feel good.” (Rona)

“Wa-Wait, damn. First of all, calm down. No, is it me who has to calm down? …Anyway, get off me. Being dragged into such a situation, I don’t see any reason or memory to explain it!” (Renya)

“Do you want to bother the neighbours with your loud shouting? Or do you want me to… plug this mouth of yours?” (Rona)

“S-T-O-P it. Don’t whisper into my ear, don’t use such a sultry tone and don’t blow your hot breath into my ear!” (Renya)

A part of Renya’s ear was wrapped up in a warm damp sensation.

It was just like imagined play-biting. Something lukewarm was caressing his ear lobe.

At the time this comparative sensation ran down his spine, Renya resolved to separate himself from it.

Namely *Do you want your sense of self to be washed away like this? Or do you want to move forward with resolution?*

“Rona, this is the final warning. Stop it right now…” (Renya)

“Renya-san…” (Rona)

Towards his cold attitude, Rona skilfully bit his ears digging in her teeth just a tiny bit.

This has already exceeded the stage of talking, Renya understood. Suddenly clenching his right hand into a fist, he only made his thumb tightly stand up.

“I gave you fair warning.” (Renya)

Using his extended thumb, he thrust it into the side of Rona’s abdomen.

“Hiyaa!?” (Rona)

Screaming in disarray, Rona’s body lost its strength.

Thereupon, without mercy, Renya continued striking both sides of Rona’s abdomen with similar attacks. Without

giving her any chance to regain her position, Renya fled from beneath Rona.

Simultaneously he pulled Rona's clothes turning her over on top of the bed while at the same time diving towards the pillow to grab the knife he had hidden there. Then he leaped back close to the wall.

At least he now had taken the necessary distance, as his calm mind had ordered him to do.

The not so calm part of him entered a state similar to the simmering noise of boiling honey.[2]

It is a good thing that my body has become young again, but with such weakness occurring at the same time, I mustn't become negligent, Renya assessed while roughly catching his breath.

Rona, who had been tossed on top of the bed and laid there spread-eagled, didn't show any signs of getting up.

Since it is night, it's a good thing that the room remains shrouded in darkness, Renya pondered while waiting for his breathing to regulate.

Most likely his face was bright red. He didn't want to consider it too much. The state of his lower part couldn't be helped in such situation either as he was a man after all. This incident was going to be trouble.

Renya couldn't deny it if someone were to ask him. For a while now he had the wish to go back to the bed even while frantically trying to calm down his mind. He repeatedly took deep breaths.

Translation Notes

[1] Not sure "小指の先がひっかかる程度には属している" ED: Red string of fate attached to pinky fingers that ties men and women together as lovers?

[2] Another idiom, I guess?

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 15 – It seems to be after the assault

“No good, huh?” (Rona)

Rona raised her voice while still lying on the bed. Somehow Renya’s breathing and body had calmed down. Moreover quite some time had passed by now.

Casually stretching out both hands and legs while facing upwards, this questioning voice loudly escaped from within her chest where the two mounds were visibly standing out.

Because idly staring at her in this state stirred strange feelings within Renya, he averted his gaze in a panic.

The knife he had recovered from the bed made him extremely nervous.

Surely, in front of a monster this knife is something like a safeguard that I wouldn’t want to be without, and in a situation like this either, Renya thought about its nature.

“And I thought I’d advanced it to such a pleasant stage.” (Rona)

“You pushed me dangerously close to breaking, baka” (Renya)

As Renya spit those words out, Rona began to laugh.

“What’s so funny?” he glared at her, who showed no sign of intending to get up. Turning only her face towards Renya, Rona said,

“I did something very regrettable.” (Rona)

“You could at least explain the reason, couldn’t you?” (Renya)

“I wanted you to accept Shion’s invitation. Isn’t that enough?” (Rona)

“For only this reason you used your priestess’ body to seduce me? That’s pretty much impossible.” (Renya)

“For me this was reason enough, it’s nothing that unusual, right?” (Rona)

Although Rona clearly stated this, she immediately sighed.

“However, it ended in failure. How disappointing. Renya-san, you were planning on refusing Shion’s invitation, weren’t you?” (Rona)

Renya was too embarrassed to answer.

Was this the place to persistently play dumb? Or should he act surprised due to being seen through here?

Not hoping for a favorable reply from the start, Rona continued without waiting for Renya’s words,

“I just want Renya-san to accept Shion’s invitation by any means. Can’t you somehow reconsider?” (Rona)

“Why do you want that? And why do you insist on me?” (Renya)

“As for the answer of your first question: Renya-san, you think that Shion is something of an inexperienced and foolish girl, don’t you?” (Rona)

“I haven’t judged her so far as to call her foolish.” (Renya)

“You don’t deny her inexperience though.” (Rona)

Do you want me to admit it myself? Renya thought.

As for her virtues, you can easily say that she is a fine, diligent girl.

However if you look at it from the point of view of an adventurer, thinking of helping another person without considering the situation, sometimes you have to become defiantly brazen and unscrupulous. Immediately doing something like admitting her own fault will cause her to fall into a disadvantageous situation. But it can’t be helped that she isn’t aware of such a thing either, can it? He thought.

When he honestly told Rona this, she agreed with an, “As expected, that’s right.”

“For this reason I want Renya-san to enter our party.” (Rona)

“I have understood this from Shion’s attempts at persuasion. However, to select a Lost like me to travel with her is dangerous in and of itself in the first place.” (Renya)

“No, no! I can pretty much tell from Renya-san’s appearance that you are obviously quite experienced.” (Rona)

I am 94 years old to begin with, Renya murmured within in his mind.

Although it doesn’t make any particular difference to me to tell them about my real age, Rona and Shion most likely would think that I am joking without believing a word of it anyways.

Therefore it would be futile to tell them about it , Renya judged.

“Can’t you somehow grant my wish? The only reward I can give you, is myself.” (Rona)

“Why do something like that? Immediately proposing to give away your own body…” (Renya)

“That is… maa, let’s say it’s a woman’s secret.” (Rona)

What woman’s secret? Renya thought. *For sure Rona’s proposal is quite charming.*

Even now Rona’s defenseless body was sprawled out on top of the bed. Renya hadn’t regained his presence of mind to such an extent that he wouldn’t feel anything from being invited by such a bishoujo.

Being invited to do as one pleases to her, it isn’t hard to predict that the majority of males are guaranteed to give her an immediate reply in the end.

Although it wasn’t easy, Renya strongly resisted to not having his mind taken over by his lust.

“To tell you the truth, in regards to refusing the invitation, there is another reason as well.” (Renya)

After the attempt to seduce him, there was no way for the situation to become even more chaotic no matter what he did. Thus Renya decided to use this situation to inquire about a matter that had been bugging him all the time since he had met the two.

“Once you have understood the reason and resolved the part that has been worrying me, I won’t mind accepting your invitation and accompanying you even without Rona having to become the sacrifice for it.” (Renya)

“Somehow, I feel like I don’t want to answer but I will try my best to do so.” (Rona)

“The thing that worries me is something you should be aware of and the answer should be somehow obvious to you.” [1] (Renya)

When Renya said that, Rona tilted her head to the side obviously showing that she didn’t understand what he was talking about.

That gesture made him think that she was an innocent girl by nature while possessing an innate charm towards men, which influenced Renya so greatly that he reflexively thought he misjudged his choice of words. However, Renya didn’t intend to let her influence his thoughts from the start.

“If you intend to play dumb, I don’t particularly mind. I will have you listen to me regardless.” (Renya)

“Yes, I will listen to your story.” (Rona)

Rona’s smile didn’t waver in the least.

“First off, the situation when we met was strange.” (Renya)

Renya started to recall the circumstances while he talked.

“After listening to the accepted request to investigate the forest, the composition of your party was far too weird.” (Renya)

“Was it really such a weird party?” (Rona)

“Indeed, having a party of 6 men merge with a party of 2 women to take on the same request, there must be a limit to how naive you can be. In case the party composition of 8 people was necessary, I might understand the reason for such an action. However, viewing the two parties separately, it was a situation where the choice of companions was incomprehensible. It was like throwing first-class meat in front of starving wolves.” (Renya)

“Fumu …” (Rona)

“The situation of two women who are not confident in their skills ending up being dependent on the 6 men, one way or another, made me think ‘Ah, there was such a method as well.’ Afterwards you two introduced yourselves as apprentices, too.” (Renya)

With a static expression Rona listened to Renya’s explanation while lying down on the bed. Her smile remained as it was, making it difficult to read her emotions.

“Please continue.” (Rona)

“…The second discrepancy is your appearance. No matter how you look at it, the size of your clothes is too small compared to your figure. In case that’s your hobby or has some religious reason, I’d like to hear the reason for that. As far as I can see you are purposely revealing your body lines by wearing clothes that are one size smaller than they should be.” (Renya)

“You have been looking at us with such eyes? That’s quite ecchi.” (Rona)

Rona displayed a slight movement of embarrassment. Renya regarded her with nothing but doubting eyes no matter which part of her was shaking with a *burun burun.* The spectacle didn’t captivate him any more.

Rather, her various wiles with the aim to deceive him didn’t bear any fruit. Simply staring at her apparently shady behavior, made Rona stop her silly movement after a while seeing that there was no effect on him.

“Why do you know about this?” (Rona)

“In my world something like this is called a technique of inducing one’s gaze. In short it’s a skill to attract the attention and stares of those around you onto yourself. In the case of women, it can easily be done by dressing light on purpose. That is to say, wearing a short skirt and increasing skin exposure.” (Renya) (ED: aka being intentionally distracting.)

“Your world seems to be quite dreadful, you know.” (Rona)

Rona said seriously. Without accommodating her by responding, Renya continued.

“The third discrepancy are your names. Because I don’t know about the common sense of this world, it’s at most only to the degree of my being bothered by it. Both of you should have a given name and a family name, but Shion only wrote down up to her given name **2** when we arrived.” (Renya)

“What’s wrong with that?” (Rona)

“Going by what I read in novels in my previous world, this often points towards special circumstances like some absurdly long names or the complications following of people from a noble household.” (Renya)

“I wasn’t aware of that, you know. Neither me nor Shion considered giving our full name but that seems to have caused complications.” (Rona)

While her smiling face didn’t waver, Rona leaked a small sigh.

“The fourth discrepancy is about the sword you gave me during the battle with the goblins.” (Renya)

“That was… I think it was an unwise move, too.” (Rona)

As she recalled that time, for the first time her smile began to slightly cramp. However she immediately returned to her *niko niko* face.

“Although the blade of the sword can’t be considered anything good, the appearance of the hilt is magnificent. Shion said that it was a family heirloom. And you said it should be fine if it’s a Lost, Rona.” (Renya)

“You remember it quite clearly, don’t you.” (Rona)

“Because the hilt is an item passed down through Shion’s household, wouldn’t that mean the superbly crafted crest of those two entwining dragons is Shion’s family crest, is what I thought. You said it would be alright for me to use the sword because I wouldn’t be able to recognize the origin of the family crest anyway, since I am a Lost, Rona. Isn’t that what you thought?” (Renya)

“Since it is such a splendidly artistic item, it might have been bought by Shion’s family in the first place, don’t you think?” (Rona)

Although Rona spoke as a rebuttal, her tone revealed that she didn’t believe in what she was saying either.

Of course Renya had expected just such an excuse as well.

“If that’s the case, you wouldn’t carry it around as a spare weapon, don’t you agree?” (Renya)

“Ah… to call that item a spare weapon is not exactly correct.” (Rona)

“The fifth discrepancy is…” (Renya)

“There’s more…?” (Rona)

Rona’s smile ended up disappearing completely, being replaced with a serious face. Renya didn’t intend to weaken his spirit of pursuing the matter at all.

The reason for that was because Rona hadn’t confirmed even one word of Renya’s suppositions yet.

“The name written on the adventurer card. I was only able to confirm Shion’s card. Even though I gave my *full name* at the time I introduced myself, only my first name was registered on the card. For no reason, or rather, if a reason is needed, I can’t think of anything else but this acting as support for the third discrepancy I mentioned earlier. In short, someone seeing the family name would immediately recognize to which household it belonged, so to say.” (Renya)

“You have observed that quite well. Haven’t you turned the tables enough, yet…?” (Rona)

Tightly holding her chest up, Rona displayed her flustered state. **3** (T/N: You should check the link in the Notes to understand the pose.)

As one would expect Renya’s awareness and gaze ended up being drawn by nature towards the pair of swaying mounds.

“Oh! There seems to be some hope.” (Rona)

Upon seeing Rona’s broad grin, Renya’s face was dyed slightly scarlet.

“Shut up, I am a man as well. Leaving that aside, there is a sixth discrepancy.” (Renya)

Tearing off his gaze from the swaying chest with a great effort of willpower, Renya continued.

“The guards hesitated slightly when they returned the adventurer cards to you.” (Renya)

“That was most likely because they didn’t want to part with the nice feeling of the cards which still held the warmth of our bodies I would think.” (Rona)

“I think that half of the reason can be attributed to that, but is that all there is to it? I fear that it’s likely that those guards know the face of either you or Shion.” (Renya)

There was no reply.

By now the levity about the matter had ended. Rona stared fixedly at Renya’s face with a serious expression.

“Is the matter I just mentioned of such a concern to you?” (Renya)

“What should I say? Although I intended to be careful, you still found my mistakes.” (Rona)

Making it apparent that she was surrendering, Rona cast her eyes down and shrugged her shoulders.

“The answer to number 1: The reason why we accepted such a request on purpose was for improving Shion’s sense of danger.” (Rona)

“It wasn’t that long since you had become adventurers though, no?” (Renya)

“Yes, it was about a month prior to that. Anyway, Shion is no good. She totally lacks the sense of danger from that direction (ED: Men’s attention). Thus I wanted to change her way of thinking by experiencing just such a risky situation.” (Rona)

Shock treatment, huh? Renya thought. Even so, he still had a feeling that it was a far too dangerous method to fully

achieve the purpose.

Renya arriving in time to rescue them was completely by chance after all.

To sum it up, considering the method on that occasion if he hadn't arrived in time to help them, Rona had already expected to be assaulted as a premise and decided that only the two of them would be able to deal with the situation one way or the other.

"Ah, because my real occupation is more or less that of a knight, sorting out six unarmed people should be doable, no? Even though I look the way I do, I am a capable person who was appointed to be a bodyguard." (Rona)

As Renya's thoughts were displayed on his face, Rona supplemented with an explanation.

This caused Renya to be astonished. However, after personally experiencing the series of actions to pin him down and immobilize him not too long ago, a part of his mind thought *I see, that's how it was.*

Falsifying her occupation, apparently that's what she had done. *If that was the case, she should have displayed her real strength at the time of the goblin subjugation*, Renya ended up thinking.

"Since it must remain an absolute secret that I am a knight… unless there are extreme circumstances I will stick to the role of being a priestess." (Rona)

"Ah, is that so… Is that perhaps the reason why you said you have no talent in magic…?" (Renya)

"Being a knight in priestess' clothes, if I were able to master magic, I would become a hero!" (Rona)

It was like saying maintaining the technical skill has overflown.* [4]

Although she falsified her occupation, it doesn't seem to be a lie that she is a priestess for the time being.

"Following up on speaking of the second discrepancy. That's quite difficult… [5] even if it is work." (Rona)

Rona said while softly caressing her chest.

Tight [5]*, does she mean in the physical sense, or the emotional sense of embarrassment, or is it in regards to both*? Renya wasn't able to reach a conclusion.

"The third discrepancy: You are right, Shion is of a certain high-class lineage. However I don't intent to reveal what kind and who it is at the present point in time." (Rona)

At the present time it wasn't clear what kind of position Renya would take, and in addition to that it was to be expected considering Renya's previous urging.

"As for the fourth: That's also the same as you had deduced before, that crest shows the blood-line of Shion." (Rona)

"Then, the fifth discrepancy as well?" (Renya)

"Yes, registering with her full name would have caused quite an uproar, I am certain." (Rona)

"That means the sixth discrepancy as well…" (Renya)

"You were wrong about the guards knowing *either* me or Shion, that is to say, they know the faces of *both* of us at that gate." (Rona)

With this everything was answered, Rona admitted with her smile.

Entrusting his back to the wall and hitting his head with his palm, Renya said,

“In short, Shion is the princess of some high-class lineage you don’t want to disclose. You are following her disguised as a priestess as you were assigned as her bodyguard. I don’t understand why you would lower yourself to such a social status though. As you have severely little experience as adventurers which is why you attempted to seize me, who appears to somehow have the basics down, in order to prevent future mistakes. Such would be your reasoning, then?” (Renya)

“Those are my reasons, yes. Do you think that Shion would even consider such a matter in the first place? Because you are a man who possesses reliable strength and can be trusted, she wishes to obtain your cooperation as a suitable companion. That’s the furthest she has considered matters.” (Rona)

At the time when she said she wanted to help the villagers in the pioneer’s village, the result was her surrendering to the compromise plan she was told. At that time Rona looked at Renya with a glare fully transmitting her intent to strangle him to death while displaying an exceedingly bright smile.

“In other words, you are quite wicked.” (Renya)

“Yes, though I don’t think that’s anything to be ashamed of.” (Rona)

“This matter is incredibly troublesome, isn’t it? Don’t go dragging me into it!” (Renya)

“Don’t say that. If one were to speak of heartless, after spending an entire night apart from each other, do you want to witness me weeping in front of a huge crowd of people about my being raped?” (Rona)

“Don’t joke around. Do you really want to harass me with something like that?!” (Renya)

“OK, then let’s enjoy ourselves to the fullest! Now~ Come on!” (Rona)

Rona spread out both her hands on top of the bed signalling an *oide oide* .

It’s no good. With quite the feeling of despair Renya looked up towards the ceiling.

From the beginning Rona had intended to wager everything she could offer herself. (ED: Including herself.)

Renya wasn’t so indifferent that he was sure his willpower would win out in the end.

A person who didn’t think of the consequences of losing a competition was an absolute force. (ED: So, either godlike or an unstoppable idiot.)

Whether it was negotiations, gambling, or brawling, this truth could be sufficiently called a fact.

In short, at the time Rona decided to make Renya her target, the match was already decided, which was no exaggeration in the end either.

And considering Renya’s situation, it was only a matter of how long he would be able to evade his inevitably disadvantageous situation through talking. That was the only question.

Having thought through things so far, Renya raised both hands while looking up the ceiling indicating his surrender.

“I give up. Though I don’t know whether I will be able to live up to your expectations.” (Renya)

Hearing those words, Rona burst out into laughter on top of the bed as she was completely satisfied.

Translation Notes

[1] Quite unsure about the last part of this sentence: 君が知っている事との答えあわせみたいなもんだ… any help is appreciated.

[2] The author wrote here “up to her middle name” but I don’t remember her noting down any middle name … so I am just assuming he meant the first name aka “Shion.”

[3] ゆっさゆさ ist the concrete wording for the pose, but I have no clue how to translate that one properly, thus check the picture for it: http://www.pixiv.net/member_illust.php?mode=medium&illust_id=11112490

[4] 保持技能がオーバーフローしているsome idiom or comparison. Don’t ask me. Basically it should mean: Exceeding the limit of her original class (knight).

[5] The kanji used here means difficult and also tight, as it uses the same kanji Renya interprets it in such a way while in Rona’s speech “tight” would make no sense in English.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 16 – It seems to be the formation of a party

“I need money. And not a small amount, either. Rather, I need a large amount of money coming in periodically.” (Renya)

“E, ue!? Ah? Eh, how much?” (Shion)

After receiving the suicidal attack of Rona with her life on the line, she had tragically surrendered in the morning of the next day.

Shion’s group showed up in the dining hall to take their breakfast. They sat down at the table Renya was already located at. After short introductory remarks, Renya rushed Shion into such a conversation.

As one would expect after suddenly being told such a thing, she only managed to reply with strange groans in the end due to being thrown into confusion by his words.

In the seat next to Shion, Rona was sitting. She didn’t show any traces at all of the suicidal attack she had attempted the night before. Nonchalantly she was watching how the matter would unfold.

Renya understood that Shion would be thrown into confusion after being told such a story out of the blue.

Even so, steering the conversation in such a direction on purpose and how he reached the conclusion to do so, naturally would bring forth doubts. Therefore he decided to make it seem like he was intending to finish the conversation he had with Shion before.

“After thinking about it for a long time by myself, I can somehow state that my prospects can’t be called very promising. Thus I concluded that I need someone to help me out.” (Renya)

“Ha, haa…” (Shion)

“However, I, as a Lost, don’t possess much knowledge about this world either, nor am I confident in my skills and neither have I any acquaintances. Because of these circumstances, I think it will be quite troublesome for me to look for companions with the goal of earning money.” (Renya)

“That may be so… but it isn’t certain either.” (Shion)

As she still didn’t recover from the initial shock and likewise wasn’t able to keep up with flow of the conversation, Shion only managed to to give an inoffensive and harmless reply.

“In line with Shion’s invitation yesterday, I can certainly say that it is quite attractive and thus I am thinking about going along with it in the end. Given that I am taking it into consideration, my main purpose is to earn money, and if Shion approves of this then there is only negotiations remaining. How do you want to earn it?” (Renya)

“Eh? Eto?” (Shion)

“For what purpose are you planning to earn money?” (Rona)

Renya demanded an answer from the panicking Shion.

Rona interjected with a composed voice from the adjourning seat.

This action served the purpose to give the confused Shion some time to sort out her thoughts. It was plainly visible that she used the flow of the conversation of Renya talking about money to direct it in such way. Likewise it was a gentle guidance.

But as far as Renya was concerned in regards to her helping with the flow of the conversation, he judged Rona to no more than trying to direct the conversation in a way that would be convenient for herself.

'You female fox with the eyes of a female tanuki' giving her only such a glance, Renya chose his words while seeing Shion returning to the current circumstances. *(ED: Basically, 'Seductress with the eyes of a criminal.')*

"I want a base. Concretely, I prefer a single house with an attached workshop. To make it absolutely clear, I want it to be at a location where no one will bother me, too." (Renya)

"This, for what reason, again?" (Rona)

"In the pioneer's village the circumstances were as they were, thus I endured various things. As far as returning to the city is concerned, there were too many dissatisfying incidents for me no matter how you look at it. I am unhappy and while it may be true that it isn't the fault of those accompanying me, I want a space where I can do whatever I like." (Renya)

"So you would like to have a house with a reasonable plot of land, huh? If you even attach a workshop to that, something along the line of one platinum coin would be necessary." (Rona)

Upon hearing Renya's words, Rona stated her impression and in addition, albeit secretly, she informed the two, Renya and Shion, of the estimated amount of money needed while feigning that it was a spontaneous conduct to the bitter end.

'Renya not knowing the market price of a house is only to be expected, but I fear that it's likely that even Shion, who wants to fulfill Renya's wish, isn't aware of the matter of how much money must be saved to do so. Really, there is no knowledge in stock at all.' (T/N: POV Rona)

"Well, the amount of money required can be examined later. It feels like that would be the appropriate response to such a difficult topic, do you agree?" (Renya)

"E, eh? Ah ah … ah, un. You are right." (Shion)

Not being given the spare time to think up too many arguments, Shion, who was still in a flustered state of mind, gave a nod to the subject Renya brought up without collecting her thoughts on the matter.

"Understood. As for myself, any kind of livelihood is fine, even if that might be a dark way of thinking. The objective is to purchase a house. With this I think it is worth it to work towards that objective. I think it's fine this way." (Shion)

"That's my goal though …" (Renya)

"Earning one platinum coin by yourself is quite difficult. Since we've already become friends, we might as well use the house as base of the party, don't you think?" (Shion)

Shion declared quite readily.

Without saying anything, Renya directed his eyes towards Rona. Rona sensing Renya's gaze upon herself quickly turned her line of sight away and directed it towards another direction.

'Isn't it yourself who brought up this impending crisis?' Renya wanted to complain to her, but Renya himself

understood as well that voicing his complaints towards Rona in her current state would be a mistake.

Even though he understood it, since he wasn't able to complain to person herself, naturally he didn't expect Rona to say anything nor could he do anything about it.

Because Rona understood it for sure as well, she averted her eyes from him.

No matter how long he would stare at her, Rona would continue to avoid his gaze by forcefully looking away. Reluctantly Renya resumed choosing his next words as much as possible while Shion was talking.

"Ano na (Look here), there is no one in any age who doesn't understand what it means to talk about men and women living under the same roof, don't you think?" (Renya)

"Isn't it fine? We are companions after all. Isn't that kind of like a family?" (Shion)

'Completely believing in the good nature of others combined with a lack of knowledge about the relationship between a man and a woman, such features by themselves can be called very beautiful. But that poor self-awareness lacks any sense of danger as usual.

In a meaning very different from the time with Rona, I think it's very unlikely I will be able to win this' Renya raised both his hands in defeat while affirming so within his mind.

'In order for this to work out, I think I have to take it to the limit as a joke at least once before it becomes a situation which will be impossible to bear, huh?' He thought.

"…Well… when that time comes, let's discuss this once again. Now then…" (Renya)

Postponing the problem.

You could also say that he did his best to lock the problem away into a far corner of his mind.

Shouting within his mind "There is noooooothinng I can do about it!"(T/N: Do-ni demona-re-, da)

"Fumu? I don't quite understand, but anyway, there is no objection towards making the matter of earning money our main goal. Let's cooperate. Isn't that fine?" (Shion)

That phrasing, yea yea it was a rather anticlimatic ending.

For some reason it was similar to the situation of Shion inquiring about Renya's countenance.(In ch. 7)

Rona donned her usual smile however, once again, it didn't reach her eyes at all. Her cruel gaze adamantly told Renya that refusing here wasn't allowed.

"That's true. Although I don't know what lies ahead of us, for the time being please take care of me, to say the least." (Renya)

No sooner than when Renya finished speaking, Shion bent herself forward across the table and grabbed both of Renya's hands tightly. With a joyful expression she shook them up and down.

"I see! Thank you, Renya! I'm sure we will become good companions, the three of us!" (Shion)

"Eh, ah, un?" (Renya)

Shion's sudden excitement didn't connect with Renya.

Without realizing Renya's state of mind, Shion continued to raise her tension.

“You are really saving us! I was worrying all night what to do if you were to refuse. If Renya had refused in the end, I would have to go straight to the guild to do my utmost in calling out to unknown male adventurers in order to invite them…” (Shion)

“Usually that would be very annoying, to the other party…” (Renya)

“What would you do if you made a mistake with your invitation!” Renya muttered. But that didn’t reach Shion’s ears at all.

“I am really glad… Thanks to that I can continue my adventuring life. With this the family won’t…” (Shion)

“Shion!?” (Rona)

Aggravated by what she was hearing, Rona suddenly jumped at Shion and covered her mouth.

Shion, who was still grasping Renya’s hands tightly while Rona covered her mouth, made an expression that could be summed up in “Shit!”

‘How am I to deal with this?’ while showing a vague smile, Renya screamed within his mind with a great feeling of trouble.

Shion was far too close for Renya to realistically pretend he didn’t hear it.

Taking advantage of the system of deafness commonly used by romcom protagonists, smoothly pretending they didn’t hear anything. Such acting wasn’t anything Renya was capable of doing, and neither did he want to try.

Having said that, it was clear without any doubt that it was a topic he wasn’t supposed to have heard about at all.

During the time of a mere instant.

Even though it didn’t happen until now that he had to use it, Renya accelerated his speed of thought processing and thus said.

“Is there anyone else you want to become a companion?” (Renya)

“”Eh?”” (Rona & Shion)

Rona and Shion synchronized their questioning voice.

Without showing it on his facial expression and without sweating, he behaved in an ordinary way without changing his usual atmosphere. While persuading himself of this, Renya managed by something like a miracle to squeeze out those words with a strong tone of voice.

If he wasn’t able to pretend not having heard about something he wasn’t supposed to hear, he decided that he had no other choice but to act like he misinterpreted what he had heard previously.

“Err, by family… you meant getting another companion to join us, no?” (Renya)

“W-well… s-such as th-three people isn’t…” (Shion)

“Haven’t you misunderstood, Renya-san? Isn’t that right, Shion?” (Rona)

“That’s true, Renya must have misunderstood. I won’t say anything.” (Shion)

“Is that so? Misunderstood, huh? That’s quite rude…” (Renya)

Although he was certain he had heard something, he pretended to think about it while making sure to have his gaze wandering about in the air and thus removed his line of sight from Shion and Rona.

Even if Renya appeared to be nonchalant and although it wasn't a good time to look over at them again, he felt it was okay if he did not look at them directly. Just as he thought, Shion's forehead was thinly covered in sweat, her face was red and her eyes were swimming, all that was reflected for a fraction of a second at the edge of his view.

Next to her Rona was wiping the sweat on the forehead in panic while whispering something into Shion's ear in such a low voice that it wouldn't be audible to Renya.

Worrying about the pros and cons of joining this party, he didn't expect anyone to comprehend his mental strain either.

While it may be true that he was able to resolve the tension by giving them a sense of security about how much he heard of what slipped from her mouth, Renya felt an unusual anxiety about joining this party for a different reason.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 17 – It seems he was taught magic

“Pleased to work with you. I am Khalil = Valiel *(T/N: >> Kariru = Varieru <<)*. For the time being, I am Kukrika’s best magician. I’m proud of my own ability.” (Khalil)

A young woman with pinned up flaxen hair introduced herself.

She was wearing an emerald robe. The cloth was made from an unknown material that one could immediately tell was very soft on the touch. Her body was decorated with various gold and silver ornaments appearing as though they were dangling all over her.

Although it was called a robe, Renya couldn’t imagine it to be an ordinary one. It wasn’t an item covering her completely from tip to toe. Rather, at the neckline it had a big opening. Furthermore whenever she was changing her sitting position by crossing her legs, the part below her waist down to her thighs became exposed due to the deep slit the robe had.

If you were to describe the dress, you would hesitate to simply call it a robe as it simply had a far too different feel from the norm.

But even considering this, wherever you look, there is the color scheme of emerald with gold and silver. No, something like this, I have experienced such an odd view in the past as far as I can recall from deep within the corners of my mind. After a little while Renya suddenly clapped his hands together.

“It’s similar to a person dressing like a Christmas tree.” (Renya) (ED: Okay, I laughed.)

“What’s that?” (Shion)

Unable to comprehend, Shion, who was sitting next to him, asked in return. As one would expect, not eager to explain the expression, Renya simply shrugged his shoulders.

Even though there was a reasonable amount of Lost who had come into this world, apparently the Christmas tradition hadn’t propagated.

Either this particular holiday hasn’t been taught up to this degree seeing as the Lost hadn’t the leisure to do so, or it was lost with time as it wasn’t of any importance to unrelated people. It was difficult to pinpoint the cause.

Without saying a word, the woman calling herself Khalil looked at him with a quizzical expression while she was sitting on the opposite side of the same ebony table they were sitting at. Her long slender fingers were entwined, joining her hands together atop the table.

Various differently sized jewels were closely assembled on these fingers as well. She had densely put on many rings made out of different materials. They reflected the white light produced by magic which brightened the dim store interior. The twinkling and glittering appearance ended up reminding Renya of lace spangled with a golden thread.

After the discussion in the early morning, Renya’s arm was grabbed, even though he didn’t want to go along with Shion,he was still dragged here. The place he was guided to was this location which was close to the center of the commerce district.

The light source shining in the otherwise dim store interior was provided by one single tool using magic to produce

white light resembling something like a lamp. Surrounding the ebony table in the center there were things like bookshelves, display cases, and many other varying items visible.

By the way, Rona had gone to the guild to officially report on the matter of Renya joining Shion's and hers party. Because it was a mere formality, Shion and Renya acted separately from Rona.

Once again she is doing some strange secret maneuvering behind the scenes, Renya ended up concluding. But he had no means to verify it.

"You want me to teach you magic, but how did you end up reaching an age where you could become an adventurer without learning elementary magic?" (Khalil)

Returning Renya from his deep pondering, the woman before him called out.

More or less you could categorize her into the class of beautiful women. Though there was nothing you could complain about in regards to her looks, she applied quite a thick layer of make-up.

Considering the combination with the suffocating amount of accessories, she gave off a comprehensively gaudy impression.

It might be typical for her age. But because of this, one could easily end up viewing her as old although she could only be no more than 2 or 3 years older than Shion and Renya if you considered her properly.

If she were to aim for a slightly more natural look, she should end up looking quite cute too , Renya thought. *Because those thoughts are related around my own tastes and preferences, I won't thoughtlessly speak these thoughts aloud, though.* Thus Renya remained silent.

"That's because Renya is a Lost." (Shion)

Instead of the silent Renya, Shion said so. Khalils gaze turned into something resembling that of someone examining a rare animal.

As it wasn't a very comfortable feeling being watched like that, Renya's own expression turned sour.

"I am sorry if I caused you to feel discomfort." (Khalil)

"No, although it isn't something pleasant, I think it can't be helped." (Renya)

Actually the inhabitants of this world observing a Lost gives off the same feeling as the people from my former world watching a rare animal, Renya thought.

Although he understood it, but no matter how willingly they received him, this uncomfortable feeling was an entirely different matter.

"That means there was no magic in your world?" (Khalil)

"Yeah, in my world magic was nothing more than a sleight of hand." (Renya)

As Renya replied in such way, Khalil visibly exhaled in comprehension.

"It is because Shion said something like her wanting me to teach someone in magic. I only thought it would be a younger boy coming but instead someone like you turned up here? It made me wonder whether there was some kind of mistake." (Khalil)

"Although I somehow don't understand the meaning of what you said, I comprehend the intention of your question.

But is it really that unusual? Even though things may appear this way, for the time being I am only 18 years old." (Renya)

"It is because those aiming to become adventurers enter the guild around the age of 14 to 15 years. As soon as they earn a little bit of money, they immediately come here to take lessons in elementary magic. If they decide to become magicians, they move on to search for another master in order to become their disciple for an extended period." (Khalil)

With these words, Khalil leaned back atop the chair and took out one bundle of enveloped papers from within the shelves in the rear.

Among the things surprising Renya since coming to this world was the fact that paper existed.

Be it for some reason, but he arbitrarily conjectured that the culture level of this world was about the same as the medieval age of his former world. He thought that the technique of manufacturing paper did not yet exist. But the technique to boil plants in order to extract the fiber for making paper was wide spread in this world.

"I will teach you magic right away by using this list of spells. For the first page of the list it is 5 silver coins and from the second page onwards it is 50 silver coins per page." (Khalil)

Although the amount of money abruptly sky-rocketed, Renya before long realized the meaning after looking over the list and thus avoided asking any pointless questions.

The spells described on the first page of the list were such things as 「Ignite Fire」 and 「Desalination」. Those were the kind of spells that were generally used to ease every day life. On the second page there were spells written like 「Small Fire Ball」 and 「Ice Stone」. Going by their names, it was obvious that those were used as offensive magic.

"Shall I check your aptitude before we discuss which kind of spells you should memorize?" (Khalil)

"Yes?" (Renya)

"It's about your aptitude in magic and your magical attribute. Though we will abridge the process as it takes quite a long time if you perform it in detail. You have to find out how skilled and talented one is in using magic and also such things like from which system one should memorize the spells in order to fully utilize one's skill. It is something like forming a guideline for the sake of training." (Khalil)

Saying this, Khalil twisted her upper body and faced towards the back. From the same shelf she had retrieved the papers, she took out a large fist-sized, transparent crystal ball.

She heavily flopped it down atop the table and rolled it in the direction of Renya.

Receiving it, Renya placed it on his palm and inspected it very closely.

"It isn't anything that unusual. In reality it is a cheap article that you can make as many as you wish, as long as you have the material and pay one gold coin in handling charges. But, oh well, this thing will be sufficient." (Khalil)

"How do you use it?" (Renya)

Renya asked while lightly rolling it around on top of his palm.

Bending herself forward across the table, Khalil grasped the ball which was rolling around on top of Renya's palm. As she was tightly holding it as it was, she lifted it in front of Renya's face.

"That's easy. As you focus your consciousness upon it and pray to it, this ball will shine. In any case, as the magical

power flows into it, it will leave behind a trace of its strength and density. I guess as a Lost you won't understand that, huh?" (Khalil)

"Look!" she presented the crystal ball. "You are right." Renya nodded his head while receiving it once more.

Being watched attentively by Shion and Khalil, he took one long deep breath. After making sure his feelings had been calmed, Renya focused his consciousness on the crystal ball.

If there is no change whatsoever with this, it will somewhat turn into quite the ridiculous scene right away, won't it? He thought by accident. Because he worried that having too many unnecessary thoughts would result in influencing the result badly, he completely drove away those obstructing thoughts. After a few seconds, in the center of the crystal ball, a small green light with the size of a pinky finger ignited.

"Green color, huh? The aptitude is ?" (Shion)

"That's true but… this is somewhat…" (Khalil)

Although Khalil wanted to agree with Shion's identification, her expression seemed troubled.

Is there some kind of a problem? Renya wondered. Khalil snatched the crystal ball from Renya's hand again, tossing it casually into the shelf in the back.

Causing a heavy sound, the crystal ball landed somewhere within the shelf. *Will such irresponsible handling be fine?* He became slightly worried.

"Going by the conclusion, your attribute is wind and in addition to that you have quite the affinity with it." (Khalil)

Now that she mentions it, before coming to this world, I got a skill from that little girl. It must have been the skill to use magic from the Wind system, he recalled.

Most likely it had been that blessing, Renya judged. But he couldn't recall the whole conversation any more.

"However, the amount of mana is hopelessly scarce. It doesn't exceed half of the maximum amount of ordinary people." (Khalil)

"With only that light, you are able to tell this much?" (Renya)

"There is nothing to criticize about the green color. Up to there it was an unusually clear variation of appearance, but … The size of the light was too small." (Khalil)

Usually it was shining on the whole crystal ball albeit faintly.

In case of magicians, who possessed talent, it was shining radiantly. There were even records of the ball being broken in a flash of light when a hero used it.

If it was put like this, certainly there was no other way but to call the light from before tiny.

Shion, who was listening next to him, nodded her head in agreement with an *Un un*

"If I remember correctly the time I used it, it shone faintly across the whole ball." (Shion)

"By the way, what colour was it?" (Renya)

Renya asked for reference. For some reason delighted, Shion replied,

"It was light green. I have the same aptitude as Renya, Wind." (Shion)

“As for the maximum amount of mana, since you can increase it little by little through usage, I think you can improve it to a certain extent. But, considering your starting amount, you better not expect too much from magic.” (Khalil)

Although it was a slightly shocking announcement for Renya, he originally came from a world where such power didn’t exist to begin with. Thus he was able to agree with the outcome of having too little power with that maximum amount.

Rather, here I possess the greatest power, or at least that’s what you can call it in the end. Without doubt I have to ask myself what the hell I did during my life in my previous world if I properly think about it.

Even if you could call it hopeless, since it is possible to improve it, I am able to use it to some extent. As such, Renya asked Khalil about a crucial matter.

“In order to increase the maximum amount of mana, is there some efficient training regimen, I wonder?” (Renya)

Khalil held out her left palm in silence.

Instead of Renya, who became uncertain due to not understanding the meaning, Shion asked .

“How much?” (Shion)

“7 silver coins.” (Khalil)

In response to Khalil’s curt answer, Shion dropped 7 silver coins on top of Khalil’s palm.

Accepting those, Khalil this time beckoned Renya with her right hand.

Continuing to beckon him, she brought her face close to Renya’s forehead as she bent herself over the table. Khalil crammed her hand quickly into her chest and retrieved a single paper tag. [1]

“Bestowal, < Light >” (Khalil)

The paper tag all of a sudden dissolved in the atmosphere, similar to ice being thrown into seething hot water, and vanished.

< Information: Due to external interference, the non-attribute magic 「Light」 has been bestowed. In case of accepting it, it will be come available for usage. Do you accept? >

Without hesitation Renya accepted.

“Spell, according to my power, let there be Light.” (Renya)

“I have heard that you reached the point that you could use spells easily without thought by just receiving the authority of application. Seeing it happening I can only agree to it.” (Khalil)

Although Khalil displayed a startled expression, Renya didn’t notice it as he was immersed in his own thoughts.

Upon thinking about it now, for Renya such principles or theories, like being someone able to acquire skills or in contrast someone unable to acquire them, vanished. He simply used them as if they were some command.

Albeit parents can increase the number of children endlessly, children can’t make children or grandchildren without becoming parents themselves.[2]

At any rate, although it was no more than simply using it, he didn’t comprehend the reason why he could use it just like that.

“… I heard the rumours, but Lost are really outside the norm.” (Khalil)

Khalil told him in admiration as she sensed that Renya had comprehended something.

It looks like the common folks aren’t aware of this truth and the magicians don’t convey this truth to anyone but other magicians either, he thought.

It will probably be a convenient skill for a magician to earn some coins.

However there is no idiot that would leak this information to the outside just to earn some income.

As Shion didn’t understand what those two were talking about, she watched the exchange between those two with a somewhat blank expression.

“So, what kind of relation does this have with the training regimen?” (Renya)

“Didn’t I tell you before? It will improve by keeping on using magic. In other words, it is fine to use any kind of magic as long as you are determined to keep using it. That’s the training to extend your maximum amount of mana. Usually, at the time this training is done, you use this Light spell in order to practice your magic.” (Khalil)

Other spells from the elementary magic were nothing but spells to make something or to influence the surroundings by causing some effect. However, producing illumination by light was no problem whatsoever, be it during daytime, although totally pointless due to the sun shining, or be it during night time as simple substitute for a lamp.

“At first I thought I was tricked looking at this method of training but after doing it for a while I will come back .” (Renya)

“Khalil… that is, how did you transfer this spell?” (Shion)

With feeling of nervousness Shion inquired about it. Khalil leaned back on the chair while turning her head left and right.

“It is futile. Although it will be okay to teach you as well, you won’t be able to use it well enough, will you?” (Khalil)

“Muu …” (Shion)

“Shion, for now I was taught the training method. After improving a bit, let’s have Khalil teach me another spell again. As it is now, no matter how many spells I am taught, there won’t be any point as I won’t be able to practice those spells due to my lacking power.” (Renya)

Shion, who had been dissatisfied for some reason or another, consented for the time being as she was soothed by Renya’s words.

“I see. Well then, Khalil, we will be back, please take care of us at that time.” (Shion)

“Yeah, yeah, you can entrust it to me… Putting that aside, Shion, didn’t your mental attitude change somehow?” (Khalil)

Since their business was finished, Renya stood up.

To Shion, who left her seat and chased after him, Khalil called out.

“You took a man as your companion. Haven’t you become more like a normal adventurer?” (Khalil)

“I was a normal adventurer to begin with!” (Shion)

“Fun, he~, ho~” (Khalil)

Khalil didn’t believe in Shion’s words at all, or rather she acted as if she hadn’t really heard them. With a slightly huffy expression, Shion continued.

“In the first place, didn’t you decline my invitation to join us?” (Shion)

For a party a magician was necessary. Although Shion had invited Khalil on Rona’s recommendation, she was quite easily refused.

At that time the reason for Khalil’s rejection was that it was a lot more comfortable to earn income by care-freely teaching elementary magic in the city or something along those lines.

“Who would enter such a dangerous party consisting of only 3 women?” (Khalil)

“That is… certainly you could say that. Because I thought about that too, I asked Renya to become our companion.” (Shion)

“I see. …Ma, good luck in earning money before coming here again. I am looking forward to it.” (Khalil)

“Ah, I will be back. Well then, see you.” (Shion)

Lightly waving her hand as she was watching Shion leaving the room, Khalil joined her hands behind her head. As if she had seen something amusing, she was broadly grinning and smiling.

“I wonder what that almost emotionless Rona with her half-baked skill in smiling will do about this.” (Khalil)

Well then, although I haven’t done anything else but teaching him the training method, I wonder how far he will grow before coming here the next time, Khalil thought while being reminded of her blonde haired friend’s face as she muttered those words.

Translation Notes

[1] The ones you can often see in anime being used as ward by omnyoujis.

[2] I think this should mean … he can use spells given to him by others but he can’t pass on or develop new spells from those.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 17.5 – It seems to be Interlude 4

– In a room of the adventurer's guild in the commercial city Kukrika –

The Deputy Branch Leader Fritz waited for a certain person to arrive in this room that had been assigned to for him for his personal use.

"Excuse me" (-)

The door of the room quietly opened and after bowing the person, who just arrived, entered. The person looked at Fritz with a gentle smile while greeting.

As far as I know this person, this is certainly a rare occurrence, thought Fritz to a certain degree. On Fritz' face there wasn't any trace of maliciousness or hideous schemings being planned.

He wore an expression as if he completely welcomed his visitor from the bottom of his heart.

There wasn't any person in this city at all, to whom this Deputy Branch Leader showed such an expression.

"I am delighted that you were able to visit my humble self. So, how did it go with the issue at hands?" (Fritz)

His words were completely free of sarcasm and ill will.

Fritz offered the visitor the chair, which had been prepared in the room in advance, while asking. Rona sat down on the chair that had been offered to her as she confronted Fritz.

Although she displayed a smile on her face similar to the one she wore when she came with Shion, the mood at that time couldn't be compared to the gentle and tender mood now at all.

Without showing any signs of distrust or suspicion, Fritz waited for Rona's response.

"Somehow I was able to reach an agreement." (Rona)

A feeling of relief could be sensed somewhere within these words.

Fritz' smile deepened as well.

"That is extremely splendid. Although your own responsibility should become a little bit lighter too with this, didn't you use an considerably high-handed move?" (Fritz)

As he heard of her move beforehand, he knew that it wasn't a proper way for a woman to conduct herself, especially one that had a social standing to such an extent. But as he was the original proposer himself, Fritz wasn't able to put up a strong opposition to it either.

To Fritz' words which seemed to be concerned about Rona's body, Rona slowly shook her head.

"Since this is my mission, I didn't think or worry about this matter." (Rona)

She punctuated her words after pondering for a little while.

"Even so, I wish you to take these as a little comfort, too." (Fritz)

Medicine, although Rona was laughing slightly, Fritz began to become flustered.

Even though Rona understood that his panicked state and his feeling of guiltiness came from Fritz' heart, if Shion were to see him now, she would be wondering in surprise just what kind of magic Rona had used on him.

From Shion's standpoint, this Deputy Branch Leader was a disgusting person, who was arrogant, without a shred of worry about others and always full of sarcasm.

However, the words spoken by Fritz were filled with an attitude of wanting to express his apology.

"There is nothing to apologize for …" (Rona)

Although Fritz tried to stand up from his chair in order to bow his head, Rona stopped him.

"This is also work on top of being my duty. Because of that I can understand it quite well." (Rona)

"Although it is what His Excellency has ordered, by only pushing nothing but difficult matters on you …" (Fritz)

That is to say, it was about the reason for Shion's dislike towards Fritz which was at the level of detestation. For the entire time since Shion registered as an adventurer it looked like the troublesome requests no one wanted to do were pushed on them. Also, in regards to the achievements of the requests, whenever they almost resolved something, the reward was reduced and small penalties forced upon them. It looked like he devoted himself to do nothing but harassing them.

However, those were the orders in such situations, Rona finished the sentence.

Although they both were in the same situation, it could be said that Fritz harassment was only aimed towards Shion. And that wasn't Fritz' intention either. The difference was that those were orders from a somewhere different place and as result he had no other option but to operate like that.

"I guess it's painful to play the role of being loathed because it is difficult, huh?" (Rona)

In reverse Rona bowed her head which caused Fritz to wave his hands in panic.

"Please stop it. For a lowly person like me …" (Fritz)

"Originally it is unusual for the guild to assist in such matters. To yield to this cooperation and to additionally support it, I am very grateful. There is no reason for me to think of you as lowly at all." (Rona)

"When you put it like that, I feel slightly relived by your kind words. Then… now this Lost will join your party, you said…" (Fritz)

Fritz began to ask a question like seeking directions to which Rona displayed a nod.

"Yes, although it is beyond expectation to gain a Lost as companion, he can be trusted to some extent. He is a person with abilities that can be placed at our side. Looking at the experience after one month *(T/N: of adventuring)*, Shion-sama isn't listening to words about quitting as an adventurer anymore either. If this is the case, there is no problem with continuing as is. That's what I plan to report to His Excellency." (Rona)

"Well then, the maneuvering of the guild too?" (Fritz)

"Yes, for the finale this time, it is satisfactory to return to the usual. Even if I consider to officially report it to His Excellency at a later time." (Rona)

"That's the best way. Then, will Rona-sama return to your previous official post?" (Fritz)

“No, I will continue with this mission after that. I fear that it’s likely that it will be like that until the end, huh?” (Rona)

As Rona said this she laughed while in contrast Fritz’ facial expression became clouded.

It was an expression showing that he didn’t believe Rona’s words to be an overly nice prospect.

“Although it is difficult for me to say as Deputy Branch Leader of the adventurer’s guild, for the Chevalier *(T/N: >> Shubarie <<)* household to say that the adventurer occupation will be continued, is…” (Fritz)

Those occupied as adventurers were sad existences and the occupation itself couldn’t be called honorable.

There were many fights and likewise the life was often in danger.

Although they couldn’t go ahead and announce it publicly because of the requests, there weren’t few who violated the laws.

Of course such requests which involved murder or theft weren’t accepted, but such things like deciding to breaking and trespassing into areas prohibited by the state were fairly frequent occurrences.

To the speech and standpoint of someone who could be called in charge of these, Rona could only smile bitterly.

Although having deliberately repeated his concerns in this matter, she couldn’t believe in the words of a person with such standpoint.

“If you go as far as saying these things, what do you think will be the best course for Shion? Maa, although I am more or less the eldest daughter, if I had remained within the household, I would be married off somewhere at best. I wonder if that would be preferable then.” (Rona)

“Mu … muu” (Fritz)

Raising his voice with groans, Fritz didn’t look like he would continue his speech, Rona comprehended as she was watching him.

“Besides, there is a younger sister below me. Even in the situation that my sister, who is skilled in various things, were to be married off somewhere, she would be able to handle it more proficiently than I.” (Rona)

Although Rona laughed while she said this, Fritz sank into silence as he didn’t know how to answer properly anymore.

Since the person herself said this while smiling and laughing, she would think badly of him if he were to deny her completely. On the other hand, if he ended up affirming it just like that, Fritz would end up admitting that Rona is inferior to her sister. Thus he ended up in a dead end. *(T/N: regarding the argumentation or in other words lose-lose situation)*

As a result Fritz was only able to groan without forming coherent words. Although Rona seemed to enjoy observing him for a little while, she didn’t have an intention to embarrass him. Thus she muttered a single thing in order rescue Fritz who was caught in his thoughts of having no way out of this situation. (E: The Japanese are very into small talk, and politely remaining quiet is not really an option for them. Thus, verbal traps like this can be laid.)

“Given the situation as it is, please confirm the formalities for Renya-san to join Shion’s party.” (Rona)

“I understand. I will see to it at once.” (Fritz)

“After sending the report to His Excellency, I shall return to Shion-sama’s side. Ah, which reminds me.” (Rona)

As if she suddenly remembered, Rona looked at Fritz and asked.

“Are there any houses attached with a workshop in this city? Please tell me” (Rona)

The adventurer guild was also a place were various different information streamed in.

Certainly the person, who became Deputy Branch Leader of such place, would have a connection to real estate information as well. Rather than Rona and Renya going to look by themselves, directly obtaining a large amount of information would be more beneficial, Rona thought as she asked this question. Fritz picked up on another meaning though.

“That is… because you want the mission base to be placed in one place? Well, then you will have to have money lent from somewhere, too…” (Fritz)

Also, she was looking for several objects close to the best district in the city aka the central district, Rona commanded Fritz.

“That won’t work. To begin with, what reason do you intend to give Shion for this?” (Rona)

“That is… as an apology for the inconveniences up till now …” (Fritz)

Since the harassment wouldn’t improve either, it was an attempt to give a large apology here. Although Fritz desired to wipe the slate clean for the incidents until now, Rona wouldn’t approve of that.

“I understand your feelings but it’s still no good. In that situation it would end up being exposed by the guild’s cooperative workers immediately, isn’t that right? Even Shion-sama isn’t such a bottomless baka. After requesting the guild’s cooperation, it would end up reaching His Excellency’s ears right away.” (Rona)

“…Truthfully, that’s quite the nasty remark, isn’t it?” (Fritz)

Fritz looked at Rona with slightly scornful eyes in response to Rona’s careless statement.

“Since it’s me, it’s fine.” (Rona)

“Haa~…” (Fritz)

“Because the money will be raised by our party, only the information on the property is required. Please be as kind to keep this placed in a corner of your mind.” (Rona)

“Understood.” (Fritz)

“Please take care to keep it a secret from Shion. And furthermore, please be careful around Renya-san as well. Since that man has fairly keen senses, I guess?” (Rona)

As Rona gave him a warning and emphasized it, Fritz nodded his head in consent to each point.

After sufficient confirmation, Rona left her seat.

“Well then, with this my business here is done. Contact me, if something should happen.” (Rona)

“I shall humbly comply. Please, take care of yourself.” (Fritz)

As she was departing, Rona replied with a beaming smile to Fritz, who anxiously spoke those words being worried about her, and left behind the room of the Deputy Branch Manager.

There is no way that his anxiety has calmed down yet, huh? although she was already fed up with this whole issue,

Rona pondered about her appointment to guard Shion. *Well, I have some uncertainties regarding this as well, but since excessive worry can't be called a good thing either, there is no point in brooding over it*, she thought to herself.

"Just where did I go wrong to have strayed from the right path, I wonder?" (Rona)

She looked down on her priest's garb and felt like her body was pressed hard and tightly constricted, while she grumbled this complaint.

Even though the equipment she wore, before she had to pursue this mission, was always something light and easy to move in, now she constantly questioned just how much her current outfit fit the role of a priest while considering her own state.

All in all, paying attention to the people nearby, as result she saw herself drawing the attention of the surroundings upon herself. But she had no other option but to endure the stares.

"I, although it is hard to say so myself, but will this situation remain always like this?" (Rona)

Rona somewhat wished to be pardoned from that.

Even if I try to complain, there is no one that would return a reply here. Rona heaved a small deep sigh.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 18 – It seems to be the beginning of training

“For a while we won’t take on any work.” (Renya)

Those were Renya’s words and although Rona and Shion were somewhat surprised they didn’t raise their voices in opposition either.

After being taught about magic in Khalil’s shop, Rona reunited with Renya and Shion at the inn. She immediately started to talk with Shion about taking up some work and thus he told them bluntly like this.

In order to earn their income they had to work and yet why did he say such a thing like not doing any work, although Rona asked this of Renya, he clearly answered her in this way:

“I am not quite able to grasp the extend of my own abilities yet.” (Renya)

What he can do and what he can’t do, as well as to what degree he was able to do certain things was the fundamental information he had to obtain for understanding his abilities, Renya explained.

What was the difference in understanding one’s own state, Shion wondered.

Although you certainly could ask that, Renya stated as preface, while unsure how far he should tell them.

“To tell you the truth, at the time when I came to this world, almost all of my memories of my previous life ended up vanishing. Therefore, the memories of what I did and how I lived in my previous life, I am not clear about those circumstances.” (Renya)

“You have lost your memories? However, considering that, you don’t look like someone being overly thrown into confusion by that state either. Didn’t you call yourself a Lost right after we met each other?” (Shion)

As a matter of fact I met god and was requested to transfer here, that was something Renya naturally simply couldn’t tell them.

Although he didn’t really mind telling them either, he just didn’t think that they would believe him. It wouldn’t be too bad if they would only make fun of him, but if they concluded it to be a mental illness it would become bothersome.

“That’s something I don’t understand well either. At any rate, I likewise haven’t experienced such a thing like crossing over to another world. In regards to my self-introduction, I just have a slight sense of doing something like that in that situation. However, where I learned of it, I can’t really recall at all.” (Renya)

Since there was no method to verify the authenticity of his words, if he insisted on not being able to remember the knowledge, it would be accepted as truth.

Also, the one being capable of proving his words as lies and possibly being called upon to stand witness was none other than that little girl, who was somewhere far away underneath the sky.

“Furthermore, apart from all this, although I accepted already that there is nothing that can be done about this situation, won’t it be troublesome in a crisis, if I don’t understand how far my own abilities go and what I am able to do?” (Renya)

“Well, that’s certainly true.” (Shion)

Although holding a sword in his hands, there was no baka who would wield it without understanding how to use a blade. (ED: You called?)

Wasn’t this an argument Shion could understand very clearly? She nodded deeply towards Renya’s words.

“Therefore, for a little while, I want to confirm it by training myself some. That’s simply it.” (Renya)

“Indeed, I understand. Since we have received the reward for our previous request, we should be fine for a while, no, Ro?” (Shion)

“Yea, but how much time do you need?” (Rona)

“I think I will be able to manage with 2 days. Though I’d like to continue training for longer. That would be the compromise.” (Renya)

Now then, how should I bring up this matter? Renya pondered.

“I wonder, is there any suitable place close to the city where I can go on a rampage without causing any problems?” (Renya)

Although he tried to think about it, but since he wasn’t able to reach a conclusion, Renya followed the conversation flow as is and tried asking Shion.

Shion, who didn’t really seem like she would have any kind of useful information at all in relation to such matters or rather related to everything in general, returned readily an answer to him.

“If that’s the case, the plain area once you leave the northern gate would be good.” (Shion)

According to Shion, the outskirts of this city, although no matter through which gate you exited, it was all plains. But the plain outside the northern gate was called the least dangerous area.

In addition, the monsters appearing there could be called nothing but weak. Walking on foot for a few hours you would reach the group of mountains harboring the 「Tomb of the Recluse」. In other words, the area past the gate apparently was empty.

Past the gates except the northern one, there was a reasonable amount of monsters. Apart from that, it was used as agricultural land. Given that there were always monsters or people there, it might become a nuisance to someone if he went on a rampage there.

As for the area past the northern gate, because the soil there wasn’t good, it wasn’t used as agricultural land either. Although there were quite a few swordsmen and magicians endeavoring in destructive activities in the name of training, there hadn’t been any complaints delivered about it even now.

“Although it is the place I had been taken care of with difficulty too, there really is nothing there at all. Even though it might be mere pretense, Khalil said she went there and blasted it full of holes at the time she wanted to vent her stress.” (Shion)

“If there is no fallout if I go that far, then that place sounds good.” (Renya)

Having decided this, early next morning, Renya, who always woke up earlier than Shion’s group, left his room and grabbed the bentou he had ordered from the inn’s staff the day before. After gulping down the breakfast, he couldn’t think of as appetizing after all, he left the inn.

Given that all of his luggage was stored in the [Inventory], he was satisfyingly in the condition of being empty-handed. The received bentou was stowed away into the [Inventory] as well. And thus he headed straight for the northern gate.

Renya began to run and grasped his fist tightly. Quite strong light leaked out between his fingers.

That was the magic he started to practice last night. (ED: Flashback to last night, go!)

As soon as he returned to his own room in the inn, although he tried to use it, because he had a hopelessly small amount of magic power as even attested by a specialist, he became dizzy after using a single light source spell.

Even though it calmed down almost immediately, this dizziness is owed to running low on magic power for sure , Renya conjectured.

Since this wasn't something like a game, there was no hint of a numerical reading of his remaining magic power.

Let's use it carefully, huh? After using it once, pause for a while, then use it again and rest afterwards. While doing that, Renya understood what kind of magic [Light] was.

At first he couldn't adjust the brightness.

Reciting the spell to cause light, at least I understand so far, huh? Well the condition I don't understand is how to change the strength of the light, I guess? Although Is it a problem with the mental image? he thought too. Imagining the light resembling a flash of burning magnesium while reciting the spell, Renya felt he was able to cause no more than a light source emitting the luminescence of an average flashlight in the surroundings.

What's the best thing to do? I don't know. Somehow there should be a help function in a situation like this to provide assistance, don't you agree? He thought while looking at the light. Then a message appeared in the lower area of his field of vision.

<**Information** : Help Function – Regarding the strength of magic – The strength of a magic spell is determined by the first part of the chant. Although there are variations like [According to my power] < [Congregate, my power] < [Change into the source of my power] < [My power shall be devoted], In the case of bestowing power, any chanting part above [Congregate, my power] becomes impossible to be used. Further methods resemble the classification of strength. The proportional application of the quantity of magic power isn't possible here, the same as in the case of bestowing power.>

"The method to remove the limit of power?" (Renya)

Certainly a convenient function, he thought while trying to state his question.

<**Information** : Help Function – The method to release the restriction on the application of magic: It is necessary to transcribe the corresponding symbol of each magic spell into memory. Do you request for a limit release for the currently available [Light]?>

So it is possible, he thought while the limit release was executed. After experiencing a light pain in the area of his forehead, a single figure appeared within Renya's mind.

How to call it …? Although it was a difficult to describe character resembling the shape of something like a drawing, apparently it was the symbol necessary for releasing the limit.

<**Information**: Concerning the execution of limit release for the non-attribute magic spell – Applied symbol: Master key of non-attribute.>

“…So it isn’t only for [Light]…?” (Renya)

Originally, the corresponding symbol of each magic spell had to be earnestly memorized. As this was the key to release the limit on the different magic spells, it became possible at this point to do such things as adjusting the magic spell by using magic power while chanting. This help function burned all of the magic spells related to the non-attribute magic with the corresponding symbol into Renya’s mind. It obviously omitted the operation to execute all of them one at a time in the end. (ED: He can Limit Break every non-attribute spell now, but still has only learned the Light spell.)

Since I received various abilities, isn’t this type of function too much of a cheat? Renya wondered. But since he couldn’t change it now anyway and it wasn’t like it had any particularly negative effect on him, he decided to not mind it.

The second issue is that the produced light source can’t be moved.

Certainly, it can be said that if I designate this magic spell in space (T/N: by using spatial coordinates … is what I’d use here), it will be impossible to move the light source away from that space.

As for this, after having the limit removed previously, trying to suddenly chant [Congregate, my power] will fail due to insufficient magic power for consumption, won’t it? The magic spell won’t be executed and my consciousness will become exhausted, something like going through the terrible experience of having a blackout, he realized the state of affairs.

So until then, he practiced one magic spell at a time and then took a rest until its effect stopped working. Though he wanted to do it again in the same manner, since after seeing through 10 repeats there didn’t appear any dizziness at this point. Thus he decided to increase the amount of magic power slightly. He tried to continue chanting two times, but after he felt a light dizziness again, he took a break. As he saw the two lights floating somewhere in the middle of his room, he realized that it was not possible to move them.

The fire itself emitted no heat either. Although it was merely shining palely, it seemed like once the position was designated after finishing the spell execution, it continued to exist in that place until its effect wore off.

Since that was the case, once he reached the point where he could release several of them, the interior of his room ended up being full of light sources. Even if there was no real harm, being the result of various trials and errors it somehow ended up bothering him. Did you really have to invoke all of them to appear in designated locations in the first place? Renya noticed that if you conjured an object with magic and moved this very object, it would shine while in movement.

After understanding that much, only practicing remained.

Apart from the occurring dizziness as an interfering factor, it was a completely mechanical action for Renya to use the magic spell.

He repeated this for a period of three hours. Even though he was able to increase the amount of simultaneous light sources to 8 without suffering dizziness, it could be called tedious work to repeat the same spell time and time again.

Isn’t there some better method? Renya pondered. For some reason he hit upon a possible method and decided to try it as he had nothing to lose anyway.

“Using [Chantless], [Light] shall be implemented now. Activate 8 units at the same time by using [Activate Parallel Magic Formation].” (Renya)

Immediately after saying this, the character [Acknowledged] could be seen. Atop of Renya’s head 8 light sources appeared in something like an interval.

I think half of my joy is due to it going well and the other half is due to realizing that I haven't even specified the position in space, Renya chuckled to himself.

With this I have verified that I can combine the skills I received in a similar fashion as assembling a macro.

However, if I assume that those have to be declared one by one too, it is quite a hassle no matter how you look at it. (T/N: He means that he has to declare each spell/skill chant sequentially in contrary to having one single chant/declaration for all of them)

After pondering about it for a little while, Renya revised the previous declaration slightly.

"Using [Chantless], [Light] shall be implemented now. Activate 8 units at the same time by using [Activate Parallel Magic Formation]. Repeat the action until the remaining quantity of my magic power decreases to 50%. Re-execute after magic power has recovered completely. Repeat the cycle until interruption. Specify the position by my right hand's palm." (Renya)

In reality, although it may be possible to repeat the cycle until his magic power was completely exhausted, but since he wasn't clear on what kind of change would happen to his body in case his magic power was emptied, he decided to include a safety margin of 50%.

If it was only to the degree of feeling faint, it would be fine to do this as he was in his own room. Even so he felt that it would be difficult on his body, if he became faint each and every time.

He lifted his palm indicating the position where the magic should be executed. Though he didn't know how to extinguish the state of this magic spell, the executed light source vanished after roughly 10 minutes passed. By tightly grasping the shining object on top of his palm, he was able to conceal it for the time being.

The execution of this macro worked just as he had planned it. Thus Renya obtained a safe method of starting the laborious activity to earnestly continue using magic.

Renya misunderstood something here without particularly realizing it.

Normally, while in the state of dizziness caused by the decreased remaining magic power, even though this was assumed to occur at a remaining magic power quantity of 10% by magicians, the common sense dictated in such situation that it was necessary to rest up for almost a half day until the magic power was restored after having been exhausted this far.

However, Renya possessed the skill [Superb Recovery] *(T/N: The translator of chapter 3 called it "Regeneration" only but that's either a wrong translation or a previous understatement by the author)*, therefore right after a decrease, it would recover at an unconventional rate successively. It became an absurd state where he could repeat cycles, which would usually require half day intervals, at intervals of a dozen seconds.

Furthermore, the time for magic practice could be multiplied by 8. Thanks to the activated parallel magic formation in addition to the high-speed replenishment, he had practically no cast time or cool down time and thus could execute the spells consecutively.

It was labeled as skill called [Breakthrough the Growth Limit].

At the time Renya received this, he was only growing by disciplining and training. In other words, although he understood that he received the beneficial skill of breaking through the growth limitation, Renya believe this had another ability which resulted in exceeding the usual growth speed limitation.(ED: Renya thought it reduced downtime in training, he didn't know it'd eliminated it.)

Basically, although Renya's unconventional amount of training, his unconventional training speed, and his

unconventional growth speed indicated the ability to release his growth limit which developed him into having his current state, the person himself completely wasn't aware of this at all.

On the contrary, the hopeless verdict of Khalil in regards to his small amount of magic power spurred Renya on to intensify his training even more.

The inhabitants of this world undoubtedly have been in contact with magic since their childhood, there's no mistake that I should use it (T/N: magic) to increase my own level until I am able to reach their proficiency.

Therefore, I, who who falls into the category of late-starters, have to thoroughly develop this ability, even if I won't be able to hold my own in comparison to the inhabitants of this world. Renya reflected.

Since he had no other choice but to use the magic spell [Light], every time he implemented the macro the length extended and the contents of Renya's macro changed.

Currently the used macro was as follows:

"Using [Chantless], [Light] shall be implemented now at maximum power. Activate 16 units at the same time by using [Activate Parallel Magic Formation]. Repeat the action until the remaining quantity of my magic power decreases to 20%. Re-execute after magic power has recovered completely. Repeat the cycle until interruption. Specify the position by my right hand's palm." (Renya)

When this matter reached the ears of Khalil she opened her eyes wide, astonished after hearing the contents. But Renya himself thinking that it was still far too insufficient caused the surrounding people to be overcome by dreadful awe.

Thus, as there was no one to stop this situation, he started to raise his cheat ability by freely using his cheat skills.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 19 – It seems to be a peddler

Please note: In the previous chapter 18 I made a blunder in interpretation. The part where Renya was talking about practising the Light magic I interpreted a part that he could move the light unit due to light moving as a wave. But as this part bugged me, I consulted Jiangshi from TA and he translated it that Renya just noticed that he could train Light magic on top of his palm while moving himself. I changed it towards that.

At the northern gate Renya presented the guild card and answered to the guard, who asked him where he was headed, that he would train and at the same time travel a bit further away have a look around.

Renya waved his hands in return to the guard who asked him to be careful on the move and the guard waved back. Renya walked at a steady pace for a while until he was at a spot, which he believed to be far enough from the gate, and then he suddenly started to run.

Though he said he would go a bit further to take a look around, Renya surveyed the surroundings after departing from the northern gate. As Shion had said before, it was a scene where you could truly see nothing.

There should be some weak monsters around , even though he thought that, there was no sign of their presence in this place, either. Looking at the rough ground, only a few short weeds were sporadically growing.

As it might be the best place for people who only want to swing their weapon, Renya felt that it was in no way lacking if he wanted to test his stamina simultaneously as well. He thought of only traveling at a running pace while he explored.

Leaving further away from the city, there might be some easily handled monsters.

In the beginning his speed was to the degree of doing some light jogging, even though he got swept up after a while into a running pace that felt in a way like performing a marathon, he didn’t show any sign of running out of breath.

While thinking that his body had become something surprisingly light, he now felt like trying to sprint for a short distance. Although his breathing rate increased somewhat as expected, there wasn’t any sign that he had to stop running due to exhaustion.

As it was his own body, Renya ended up having a somewhat eerie feeling. *It isn’t a bad thing, rather if I had to say it, then it is a conveniently nice thing*, because of that he stopped worrying about it.

While keeping a stable pace for approximately one hour, he continued to run. The plain ended quickly and he ended up arriving at the group of mountains exposing a rugged rock surface.

There was no presence of anything living. While admiring the stretched out rocky mountains, he tried to roughly calculate in his head.

Shion said that to reach these mountains going on foot it would take a few hours.

As there are individual differences, the walking speed would be roughly about 4 km/h.

Since the inhabitants of this world, rather than only the adventurers, train their bodies, I should assume a little higher speed like 5 km/h.

Because I think that a few hours could mean something around 5 to 6 hours and if I make a little estimation of 5 hours, I can calculate that the distance between the city and the rocky mountains is roughly 25 km.

Speaking of a speed of 25 km/h, you can calculate that running 100 m will take approximately around 14 seconds.

That doesn't mean that it is that fast, although Renya though that, running a little less than 2 hours to travel 42 km is a marathon run. From the fact that he thought like that you could declare that those thoughts were very far off from the norm.

"Well, let's start then, huh?" (Renya)

From his [Inventory] he took out the long sword he had just recently purchased. Renya muttered those words while confirming his grip.

I am not an idiot who doesn't know the technical proficiency of brandishing edged tools , was what he thought, but speaking about how he judged his own ability, you could say that it was the same no matter which weapon he bought.

Nonetheless, it was unknown what Renya expected from this long sword either.

It was produced in large quantities, it was sold at the markets on every corner, and when talking about the quality of the blade, there was no edge put on it either. It was produced for the sake of using it to strike, suppress, and cut.

It couldn't be helped that Renya was extremely dissatisfied with it.

I was expecting the thing to have at some degree of sharpness, even if only a little , though he ended up thinking this, since this could be called a typical weapon in this world, he had no choice but to accept it.

After ascertaining his grip, he tried to lightly swing it.

Renya didn't have any suitable knowledge about swordsmanship in this world.

And since his memories had been removed, although he couldn't state it with certainty, he didn't expect that he learned handling weapons as a child when he went to school in his previous world.

For this reason, without having the knowledge about things like form, as he somehow finished taking a pose in order to wield the sword, since he had absolutely no knowledge about it, he started practice-swinging, combining slashes and thrusts using some logic. It gave off a reasonable appearance.

As far as Renya was concerned, as he was unusually unlucky, he only wanted to earnestly practice kendo. To a certain extent he was currently applying swordsmanship, it might be even possible to adequately use this style when going into battle.

However, he devoted most of his previous life to ingrain techniques into his body, techniques that used swordsmanship employing a katana.

Such, as a representative, the long sword Renya decided to hold, proved that his compatibility with the weapons of this world was the worst.

Unlike this world's weapons whose intended purpose was to strike, suppress, and cut, a katana was something that killed when you drew it and connected.

If you used it to strike similarly to this world's long sword, it wouldn't matter how excellent the katana was, it would end up breaking or warping.

Since it differed in the way it killed, the way to handle it was naturally totally different too.

As it was such a distinctive gap, Renya's body accumulated discomfort and no matter which movement he started his body became unable to follow it.

When he fought against the goblins at the pioneer's village, he became excited by the battle itself. Even though he was still fine then to wield the weapons, if he analyzed it calmly and tried to fight as usual, this out of place feeling or rather this discomfort would have been quite large.

Renya repeated the practice swings for who-knows-how-long and then after he stored the long sword in its scabbard and tossed it into his [Inventory], he breathed a sigh.

"This is useless… it's not even worth complaining about." (Renya)

He moved fairly well.

But, the disposition of something like being reasonably satisfied didn't occur to Renya.

Deeply sighting, he shook his head while sitting on a convenient stone for some time.

"Is something troubling you?"

Suddenly a voice came flying at him from the back. Standing in a flash, Renya turned his head while putting himself on guard.

The slope of the mountains was in Renya's back and that mountain had an astonishingly high level of altitude. He looked up to see a single little girl there who was crouching down using her knees and elbows while wrapping her cheeks with both hands.

Her hair style consisted of long black hair with tied pigtails on the left and right. The half opened eyes with red pupils somehow gave off the feeling as if she was sleepy.

She wore a plain light brown shirt and trousers on top, which were covered with a dull grey mantle. On her right waist something with the shape of a slightly large pouch was hung. Going by her appearance he concluded that it was likely that she was in the middle of a journey.

"Who are you?" (Renya)

She wasn't someone he remembered having seen before.

Without giving an answer to Renya regarding her identity, she stood up from the place she had been crouching and jumped down from the slope just like that.

That agility caused Renya to heighten his caution.

The slope was at a height to the extent that Renya had to look up. When she jumped down from that place, which likely had a height of about 3 m, the girl practically didn't bend her knee and yet she didn't stagger from the landing impact. Still and silent, Renya watched the girl who descended in front of his eyes.

"If you ask someone for their name, it is common sense to give your own name right after asking, is what I would like to point out to you. But given that it was me, who called out to you, I shall give you my name!"

Unnaturally flipping up the mantle and arrogantly putting both hands on her hips, no matter how and where you looked, she was shady on top of being suspicious-looking.

While maintaining a distance that would allow him to escape at any time, Renya watched the little girl, who grandly introduced herself, intently.

“I am called the peddler Gi… Kirie *(T/N: >> Kirie <<)*” (Kirie)

“I don’t believe it’s something you should brag about?” (Renya)

Calmly, quickly cutting into Kirie’s introduction, Renya inserted his tsukkomi causing the cocky Kirie to drop her shoulders with a feeling of despondence.

“Shouldn’t you say something more appropriate by reading the mood there?” (Kirie)

“Though I don’t know about that, what does this peddler-san want from me?” (Renya)

Since she approached specifically to greet him, Renya asked her while trying to guess her intentions.

Seeing that the expression of vigilance didn’t vanish from his face, Kirie, who called herself a shoujo, smiled bitterly.

“Even if you don’t stand on guard like this…” (Kirie)

“Just in case, I had checked that there was no one else close by. And yet you were there. That should be plenty of reason to remain on guard, don’t you agree?” (Renya)

Renya didn’t understand magic like the one Rona used.

Therefore, to make certain, even though he didn’t mention it, he paid attention to his surroundings. He had confirmed that there wasn’t anyone in the range of his attentive field of vision.

I think probably it would have become awkward, if anyone were to see my way of using the sword . Though he likely shouldn’t give such a reason for that.

“I will be troubled if you look down on peddlers. After all I have to repel the attacks of bandits as well as monsters while continuously traveling from city to city in order to conduct my business. Something on the level of erasing my own presence is a trivial matter.” (Kirie)

Once again doing a complete reverse, Kirie suddenly and forcefully puffed up her chest with pride.

Is that how it is? while pondering about it, Renya tried to throw out another question.

“Although you are calling yourself a merchant, you don’t carry any merchandise, do you?” (Renya)

“I am a rare peddler. I possess [Inventory]. Amazing, don’t you agree?” (Kirie)

Renya nodded for the time being as he understood the underlying logic.

“So, what are you selling?” (Renya)

“I am able to sell whatever you like. It must be something like fate to meet each other in this place. Do you want me to show you some of my wares?” (Kirie)

Without even waiting for a reply, Kirie took out a voluminous carpet, which you wouldn’t expect to possibly fit into such place, from the pouch hanging on her waist. She immediately spread it out on the ground.

Furthermore she took out various goods from the same pouch while lining them up on top of the carpet in a way so you could easily examine them. *Somehow I am certain I encountered this pocket she possesses in some anime*, Renya thought.

Small bottles like test tubes filled with multicolored liquids, ornaments made out of precious metals adorned with jewels, some materials like black leather, gloves with an appearance of exposing the fingers and several pairs of shoes.

As she lined up the things from within the pouch like that, Renya's eyes were glued to the last item Kirie took out.

"That is…" (Renya)

"Oya, you have a discerning eye to immediately spot this." (Kirie)

Kirie made sure to hold it reverently with both hands. She presented a single katana in front of Renya's eyes.

A matte black leather was wrapped around the estimated part of the hilt.

The guard on the sword was made out of plain black metal with the same lack of gloss.

Although he couldn't see whether the blade of the katana matched them as it was in its scabbard, the scabbard appeared to be made from metal as well, having a similar black color. Something like a silver arabesque pattern was applied as a design.

"Please, feel free to ascertain it for yourself by drawing it." (Kirie)

He grasped the scabbard of the katana he was handed with his left hand and drew it out of the opening of the sheath.

With a delightful feeling of *kun~tsu*, he could feel the blade sliding out of the scabbard. *(T/N: Kun refers to the drawing of the blade while sheathed and the tsu is the sound of it coming free completely.)*

Turning over the edge of the unsheathed katana's blade, he set it up at eye level while leaking a small sigh of admiration.

The texture of the surface had a skillfully fine small ferrite pieces matching the wave pattern along its length. The tempered pattern of the katana's blade had an inlet inserted having an rotund appearance of wind swaying clovers intermingling with each other. [2]

Measuring the katana's blade with his eyes, it had a length of approximately 2 shaku 4 sun. *(T/N: shaku = 30,3 cm, sun = approx. 3 cm … so approx. 72,6 cm)*

Though he didn't understand the inscription on the exposed tang after examining it, *Given that the curving is shallow, I fear that it's likely this katana's designated classification would be uchigatana*,[1] he judged.

For a while Renya was staring at it intently checking the condition of the blade. Carefully returning the katana's blade into its scabbard, he handed the katana back to Kirie.

"It was a considerably sharp sword and a feast for the eyes." (Renya)

"Oya? You won't buy it?" (Kirie)

As Kirie said this unexpectedly, Renya naturally took something like a single breath.

"You have only this many goods. Probably it is beyond my grasp." (Renya)

“No~ I was told that this weapon was used by some Lost. But, well, for most of the people in this world it is a half-hearted weapon.” (Kirie)

While grasping the received katana with her right hand, she began to scribble with a *kaki kaki* with the free left hand. Kirie displayed a troubled laugh.

“It is exceedingly beautiful. But it is emitting a feeling of being ~ a rare piece of art, or perhaps I should say there are no people who are able to accurately handle it as weapon. As there were many people broke off their interest in it due to its appearance, honestly speaking, I had no other choice but to hold onto it.” (Kirie)

“What a waste.” (Renya)

Renya thought so from the bottom of his heart.

Clinging to these words, no matter what Kirie’s voice became stuffily zealous recommending her merchandise.

“I believe it is a great satisfaction for people who can handle a tool to receive it after all. Such being the case, if you can handle it accurately, I think I wouldn’t mind selling it to you for a special price. For only an astonishingly low 20 gold coins!” (Kirie)

“I believe I can handle it perfectly. I just don’t have such money on hand.” (Renya)

Together with the share he held onto when he arrived in this world here, adding to that the sum he got for selling off the magic crystals and also the reward for the goblin subjugation, he didn’t possess that kind of money. Renya easily gave up on the purchase.

I can’t shake a sleeve I don’t have and I think I don’t want to go as far as lending money from somewhere just so that I can buy it.

In the case of an edged tool, I can use it, I believe. My handling of the longsword is embarrassing though.

I think you could say I am simply swinging an iron pole. Well, in it’s own way it can be used in combat somehow.

Renya gave up after reaching such a conclusion. However, Kirie didn’t want to lose this buyer here. Thus, she earnestly hung on tenaciously as she didn’t know when the next buyer who knew about this object might appear.

“Well then, how about bartering for it? Since you came to this place to do weapon training, aren’t you an adventurer-san? Don’t you have some rare item you could exchange for the katana?” (Kirie)

“Sorry, but it hasn’t been a long time yet since I came to this world here. Besides, it is unthinkable by all means that I possess such a rare item that could counterbalance it *(T/N: the katana)*.” (Renya)

“Mu? This world here? Might you possibly be a Lost human?” (Kirie)

Blaming himself with the audible words “Damn!”, there was no further need to conceal it since he spilled the beans already. Given Kirie’s astonishment alongside her inquiry, Renya nodded.

Seeing Renya nodding, Kirie’s face in a flash sparkled with a joyful expression.

“If that’s the case! Did you bring in anything from your world? Something that doesn’t exist in this world would have plenty of value.” (Kirie)

“Even if you said that…” (Renya)

Because it could be said that an ordinary Lost would come from their original world to this world by something like

falling through a vortex, it wouldn't be strange for them to bring the items they held onto at the time they fell into this world either.

However, if Renya was to believe the words of that little girl, once the body completely passed away in the original world, it was consequently impossible to bring in anything from the original world.

Having unintentionally thought this far, Renya opened his [Inventory] to look into it.

There he found only one item stored away.

That was, although not an item brought in from his original world, something which historically originated from his former world.

Even though it was something that had a reasonable value by itself, as he also recognized it with spite, looking at it from the view of common people, that was… an object which inevitably couldn't be called anything more than a stick.

In spite of thinking like that, as he had no other options, Renya took it out from his [Inventory].

"That is?" (Kirie)

"It is called a shinai. In my world… maa, let's just say it is a weapon for the time being." (Renya)

"That is, maa… how to say it? …Can I also borrow it for a little while?" (Kirie)

Renya passed over the shinai he took out on top of Kirie's extended left hand she held out.

Although the thought of her possibly making off with the shinai crossed his mind for an instant, he judged it quite unlikely for her to escape from this place while leaving the still spread out merchandise at her own feet without a care.

Kirie held the katana in the right hand without change. In the left hand she grasped the hilt of the shinai and assessed it while lightly swinging it.

"This is also considerably light." (Kirie)

"Well, in my world it is a weapon serving mainly for practice." (Renya)

"Houhou… oya? Isn't this a grade 10 item?" (Kirie)

As Kirie gazed at the shinai closely, she suddenly told him what she had noticed.

If I'm not mistaken, such an explaination was given at the time when I first saw it in the [Inventory] , he remembered.

Since she is a merchant, I guess judging such things is one of her fortes.

Or I think she could also possess the skill of appraisal. While considering this, Renya nodded.

As he tried to ask about her expression, she nimbly arranged the shinai in her left hand and the katana in her right hand. Thinking about something, Kirie counted 10 times as she knocked them together each time. Abruptly she held out the katana in her right hand facing Renya.

"Oi?" (Renya)

"Let's exchange. Although I don't quite understand this item, since it certainly is a grade 10 item, this will sell for any price to dilettantes!" (Kirie)

“Though I also have a problem with the way you talk about something I took out, are you really fine with this?” (Renya)

“Yes, even if I held onto this katana here, I won’t be able to sell it successfully either. Since its rank is only grade 7, its value is considerably lower.” (Kirie)

“If you are willing to exchange it, it will be quite helpful to me, though…” (Renya)

Even though Renya had an expression of not being quite convinced, Kirie floated a smile with *niko niko* as it was actually nothing more than an absolutely beneficial shopping to her.

“As I can sweep out deadstock as well as obtain a novel commodity, it is a very good thing.” (Kirie)

“Is that so? If that’s really fine, please go ahead, but.” (Renya)

“Yes, maidoari~” (Kirie) *(T/N: Thanks for your purchase/for making business with you, for those who don’t know)*

Even though Renya somehow couldn’t help feeling that this ended up being an extremely unbalanced transaction, Kiried pushed the katana onto Renya and promptly stored away the shinai in the void storage going via the pouch in the end.

“You don’t have any other businesses of a lifetime besides this one, do you? If there isn’t, you don’t mind me storing my merchandise, do you?” (Kirie)

“Indeed, since I don’t have any money on hand to that extent.” (Renya)

While graping the obtained katana tightly, as Renya answered her, within his mind he wondered, *Now then, how am I supposed to equip this?*

Since it was an uchigatana, it would be the proper way to carry it on his waist. but there was no way that Renya had a place on his current clothes to wear this katana.

“Now that you mention it …” (Kirie)

Being quite casual, Kirie said while storing back the spread out merchandise into her pouch.

“As it is a special occasion, would you let me see how to use that weapon perfectly?” (Kirie)

“Fumu?” (Renya)

“I will prepare the target.” (Kirie)

Having almost finished putting away the items, Kirie took out another object from within her pouch.

That object resembled something that could be seen on paddy fields and their likes in Renya’s former world.

It was a scarecrow made out of straw and a stick.

In order for the scarecrow to have the shape of a human-like body, it wore a leather armor. As such, it appeared to have something like intensity in its own way.

Kirie stabbed it into the ground like a stake so that its feet section was affixed in the ground. By sending Renya a signal as if she said “There you go”, she took a little distance.

Albeit wondering what he should do, Renya felt in some respects something like obligation due to the business deal not long ago. He judged that he could listen to a request of such level.

Furthermore, Kirie had said「a person handling it accurately」. Thus it could also be said that it was necessary to establish proper proof.

When he saw that Kirie had sufficiently distanced herself from the scarecrow, Renya lightly lowered his hips, held the katana with his left hand close to his waist and drew his right hand gently near to its hilt.

Currently, although he would use it for the first time, he had something like a hallucination remembering a time where he carried a katana in his hands in the far gone olden days.

Renya's eyes fixedly stared at the scarecrow.

The distance from Renya to the scarecrow was roughly about 2 meters.

Remembering the feeling of oppression similar to being choked by merely watching, Kirie gulped down her saliva involuntarily in the instant Renya moved his right hand.

Drawing it out, at the time she thought that, Renya's body had already returned to its former position. In the same way as if being immersed in a slow lingering memory, the katana's blade was returned into its scabbard.

Kirie was dumbfounded.

She didn't remember taking her eyes off him.

Even though she didn't, within Kirie's field of vision, the part of the scarecrow, which Renya had cut by stepping in with a single step, ended up in a spectacle of cleanly falling off.

Somehow, watching in front, Kirie ended up feeling as if she was the one having been cut. At the same time Renya completely stored back the katana's blade, the plain scarecrow arbitrarily fell apart.

Thus, the scarecrow, which had been cut from the left side up to the right shoulder, dropped onto the ground being separated into four parts.

"As it happened due to drawing the katana from the initial position, this probably should be correctly named as battoujutsu." (Renya) *(T/N: Art of sword drawing … see Rurounin no Kenshin for further references)*

Breathing out without a warning, Kirie remained stiff as she turned towards Renya's direction while he explained.

"Although kenjutsu is yet another different art… Are you satisfied with this?" (Renya)

nikori Renya displayed a smiling face. Although it was likely that Renya wasn't aware of anything, Kirie's muscles along the spine were frozen stiff in reminiscence of the spectacle before and except nodding her head with a *koku koku* she wasn't able to move at all.

Translators comment

For those butting their heads on top of the desk, I didn't make a mistake when the peddler introduced herself as "Gi

… Kirie", for the rest I refer you to Interlude 3.

(ED: I dunno, Kirie showed a lot of emotion. I'm not wholly convinced.)

Translation Notes

[1] It is a short Katana, predecessor to kodachi's, for more information see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uchigatana

[2] Explanation provided by Faceman. Thank you.

> *I guess he is talking about hamon line, and can be adjusted by smith by varying the thickness of clay applied onto blade before quenching (clay slows down the cooling when hot metal is put into water/oil, so with the clay layer being of variable thickness, the steel obtains differences in atomic microstructure that can be brought out by proper polishing. Clover pattern would be somethinglike this http://www.tofugu.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/japanese-sword-hamon.jpg*

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 20 – It seems to be the acceptance of a request

“We have accepted a request!” (Shion)

As Shion was somehow strangely delighted, the first thing she said after opening her mouth was this line. Seeing Renya return to the city after two straight days of committing himself to expert training in the mountain range without saying anything beforehand, he received a severe scolding from Shion and Rona the next day in early afternoon.

Apparently when he left taking only one bentou (boxed-lunch) along, they started to worry whether something had happened to Renya’s body as there wasn’t any sign of him returning when evening came.

While consuming the food he took along little by little and inserting naps inbetween, it was a trifling task for Renya to continuously train his body outside for a period of 2 days. Talking about it now, certainly, only having enough food for just one meal, he also considered within his mind to return once but immediately rejected it as being annoying.

But as he said that he intended to take around two days from the beginning, he didn’t think there was any reason to swarm him with criticism. As Shion fervently explained how concerned they were about Renya, he decided to devote himself to earnestly apologizing as he was unable to do anything else due to not wanting to particularly make things worse by replying with an imprudent rebuttal.

It was a fact that he caused them to worry, and as he considered the situation of being in the same position of being concerned about someone, it was a somewhat fresh feeling and he continued to apologize without being bothered by doing so.

Apart from that.

Just as Renya finished eating the expectedly disgusting lunch, he received boiling hot water from the inn’s employee in order to somehow improve the circumstances in his surroundings step by step. The mouth of the bottle was wide. Taking off its lid, he poured the water into an earthenware jar. While waiting for it to fully cooldown, he started to cut down the fruits resembling apples, which he came across and bought at a nearby street stall, in properly sized pieces.

Without removing the skin, he threw bite sized pieces of them into the water that had finished cooling down completely due to the heat dissipating and shut the lid again.

He only remembered the information how to produce it. Although Renya pondered whether it was fine to leave it as it is for a few days, he knew no more than that it was necessary to do so in order to finish the base.

Even though Rona was watching with great interest as to what Renya was doing from the sidelines, he didn’t explain to her what he was up to.

He considered it to be difficult for her to comprehend even if he were to explain it.

“Eto, Renya?” (Shion)

He had asked the inn’s employee in advance to be allowed to place the jar in the inn’s kitchen at a place where it wouldn’t hinder anyone.

Renya conveyed to them that he wanted to leave it there for a few days as it is. As the inn’s employee said that it

would only rot, Renya had no other choice but to ambiguously laugh.

It would be undoubtedly complicated to explain the difference between rotting and fermentation to the inhabitants of this world. It was true that rotting and fermentation could be indicated as identical phenomenon, but fermentation was something beneficial to people. Given that only rotting wasn't something to be called beneficial, Renya personally would end up being embarrassed if there was no difference.

"Oi, Renya…" (Shion)

"I heard you. I think you said that you accepted a request?" (Renya)

As she would take offense if Renya continued to ignore her indefinitely, Renya finally returned some words to Shion as anger colored her tone.

While it may be true that there is no particular reason to reply to her since it doesn't imply that I am not listening, I guess it will be fine to continue talking as it is information that needs to be conveyed, he ended up thinking.

"What kind of request did you accept?" (Renya)

"Leaving the southern gate, at a place around one day by carriage a new dungeon has been discovered." (Shion)

In regards to the distance, it was a place approximately around 80 km away.

As Renya wasn't really able to judge whether it was close by or far away, he asked himself *Why did this site turn into a dungeon? And why wasn't it discovered until just now?*

He tried to confront Shion with these questions.

There were two types of the things called dungeons. First off there are remains of abandoned mines and buildings that had been constructed by humans. After abandoning them without doing something like tearing them down, for some reason monsters would settle in there.

The other type was called something like living type dungeon. At some place a dungeon core would spring forth and summon objects in its surroundings making drastic changes to the environment, producing monsters and stockpiling treasures. The purpose of these actions was to absorb the mana of the defeated adventurers who came to the dungeon. Furthermore it was something that was able to mature.

No sooner than after the creation of the dungeon core, it will start to produce monsters by whatever method, huh? This being the point, there were many mysterious parts about this and it seemed that the research in this direction hadn't really progressed much, either.

"So this time the discovered dungeon is of the living type category. It is a subjugation request." (Shion)

"Although it is still new, do you want to conquer the dungeon with a single party?" (Renya)

"No, several parties will link up to form a raid." (Shion) (ED: WoW?)

Raid meant that it was a group made up of several parties.

Shion explained that since it wouldn't be an achievement of a single party, the guild request was about how well you would be able to work together in the raid.

Although Renya thought that it was almost like a game, it obviously wasn't actually such an optimistic situation.

If the living type dungeon was left alone, it would start to absorb the mana from its surroundings as well. So if they

let it mature arbitrarily, it would reach the point of it producing great numbers of powerful monsters which would greatly increase the scale of the dungeon.

And then, eventually, the overflowing amount of created monsters would break out and cause serious damage to the surrounding areas. Thus, in case a new living type dungeon was discovered, it was prudent to gather the necessary amount of people promptly and go capture the dungeon in order to destroy its core.

“What’s the number of participating parties?” (Renya)

“With us it is 4. The total amount of participants is 19 people.” (Shion)

Since Renya’s group’s party had 3 people, there were 16 people left.

Although you could say it would be parties having 5 people each by calculation, since parties usually had 4 to 6 members working together, you could call this an average number of participants.

But, what about their combat ability? Since he hadn’t an example he could judge by, he was pondering about this. Although Renya looked at Rona seeking for something like an opinion, Rona just swung here head left and right.

“Given that there is only scarce information about a new dungeon, it is usually often unknown whether the number of people to conquer it is appropriate.” (Rona)

“After listening to the end, I don’t think it is a very appealing job, don’t you think?” (Renya)

“In case it hasn’t been long since the generation of the core, it won’t be able to release monsters on an extensive scale. As for the degree of difficulty, it is normally low. Also as you can expect things like intact raw materials, and treasures to a certain degree, it is a good job to earn income, you know.” (Rona)

“Renya, why did you ask Rona’s opinion and not mine…?” (Shion)

Facing the extreme complaining of Shion, by no means can I go ahead and foolishly give her the honest reason of me having the impression that Rona clearly has far more information and experience than her, Renya assessed.

Although I don’t really understand how it ended up that I joined their party, I know that at least Rona wouldn’t destroy her stance of being a priest’s apprentice as long as she was in front of Shion.

Even though I don’t understand the reason for that, Rona tries to maintain this stance to the bitter end. As it was something which Renya was unskilled in, it was impossible for him to completely expose Rona.

While groaning with a low “U~ tsu”, Shion directed a straight glare at him. Renya somehow or other made up a reason and told her.

“Aren’t Rona and Shion equal in regards to knowledge and experience? In that case, in this situation following the opinion of Rona, who serves God, might possibly grant us a blessing, don’t you think?” (Renya)

If I think about requesting this from the little girl working as supervisor, I guess I can’t imagine her working diligently to the degree of blessing each and every single one of the priests who call themselves her servants either way, Renya was thinking since he had only a faint belief in her. As for forcefully making up a reason, Renya praised himself for it only being slightly invalid.[1]

“Mu … For some reason, now that you said that, I have such feelings too.” (Shion)

“I guess the leader is Shion? I will leave the final decision to you. Besides, you don’t have to worry since I will abide by your decision for sure.” (Renya)

“”Eh?”” (Rona & Shion)

After Renya finished saying it clearly, they returned a somehow questioning voice in harmony.

Did I say something so unexpected, Renya wondered as he looked at the two of them. Their facial expressions almost looked to him as if there was something like a question mark floating above their heads.

“I wonder, did I say something strange?” (Renya)

“I just thought that Renya would act as the leader…” (Shion)

“Eetto, I thought the same as well.” (Rona)

“Why would you think that?” (Renya)

Renya exhaled while showing a very reluctant expression.

Although it was only vaguely, he had a hunch that they would say something like that. Thus he was able to prepare his reply beforehand.

The people called leaders were people who grew into the duty of bearing responsibility for others apart from themselves. Renya didn’t have a hobby of delightfully being responsible for others.

“At least you should understand that it is a pointless decision to make a Lost, who has little to no information about this world, your leader, no?” (Renya)

Though Renya believed that he told them something obvious, somehow both of them didn’t seem to comprehend the reasoning.

“As the man is usually called the leader after all, I believe it will cause less problems with others, you know.” (Rona)

“I agree. Moreover I think that Renya will be able to make more accurate decisions than me.” (Shion)

“Where do you get this confidence from? And also, why did you accept the request then?” Although that was what he wanted to retort with, before their gazes keenly hinting at and conveying “We have already accepted it, no?” and “We can’t refuse anymore, isn’t that right?” his questions ended up disappearing too.

Dropping his shoulders while exhaling, Renya agreed, albeit feeling unwillingly.

“I understand… Shion, please consult with me briefly before you accept a request. Especially since I will be the leader.” (Renya)

“Mu, that’s also true. I am sorry for being rash.” (Shion)

As Shion meekly apologized, Renya raised his hand in order to make them listen.

“And, what’s the reward and time limit?” (Renya)

“Including the necessary expenses, it is 6 gold coins for each party. The time limit is: 2 days for traveling and 2 days for the dungeon exploration, in total 4 days. Since it is a subjugation request, we are supposed to subjugate as many monsters as possible inside. There is an additional reward of 10 gold coins for destroying the dungeon core.” (Shion)

“We travel by carriage? Or by foot?” (Renya)

“We will travel there by carriage. The guild will arrange for it. Although the departure is tomorrow morning, we should

check the faces of the fellow participating parties once before that. This evening we will meet up at a bar called 「Silver Cup」 close to the guild.” (Shion)

Although Shion was looking as if she wanted to say “How was that!”, Renya was troubled within his mind.

There isn’t much time left until we have to meet up with the other parties. The time until departure is extremely lacking as well.

Considering the time the meet up will take, the time remaining to devote for preparation is little to nothing.

I guess the request itself was posted only a short while before.

Discovering it just barely within the deadline, it seems that Shion ended up rushing to accept the request last-minute. That thinking was too naive.

Looking to his side, he saw that Rona looked sullen sharing the same opinion as him.

“Shion… don’t you think about the required follow up before you decide to accept a request?” (Renya)

“Eh? Eh?” (Shion)

Apparently Shion didn’t understand why Renya and Rona were looking sullen.

Nonetheless, she still seemed to understand that she had done something completely unwise. While alternating between viewing at both of their faces, her facial expression became very flustered.

Should I use this occasion to firmly scold her? Although he considered that too, after seeing Shion’s expression he gave up on it.

Even though Renya didn’t know how it was for the people of this world here, choosing to scold rather than praise a method for the most times caused various strains as well.

If they realized their mistake, it would work better to follow up rather than blaming them.

By no means did I end up being dumbfounded by the nature of the flustered Shion! Despite him persuading himself, when he was seen by Rona, she clapped on his shoulders with a *pon pon* showing nothing but her understanding.

“Although it can’t be helped now that we ended up accepting it… Rona, can you go ahead and purchase the necessary goods quickly?” (Renya)

“Yes, I guess it can’t be helped. Food and water for 4 days, rope, torchlights, potions and bandages. That should be it, I think?” (Rona)

“What about bedding? Although you guys got your own already, I don’t possess any…” (Renya)

“I will buy it. I will buy anything else I become aware of while I’m at it.” (Rona)

“I leave it to you. The expenses will be split between us later on. Can you pay for us in advance?” (Renya)

Bowing to Renya, Rona left the inn at a quick pace.

After seeing her off, looking at Shion’s state, it seems she has at last started to gradually realize the troubles she’d caused. It didn’t seem unlikely that she would present the armor she was wearing on herself as an apology.

“Preparations… can’t move without them…” (Shion)

“It’s fine to be careful next time. All things considered, this wasn’t the first time you accepted a request, didn’t you ever notice this aspect?” (Renya)

Without using something like an accusing voice, Renya cautiously asked her. Shion answered while her face became red due to shame.

“Because Rona was always acting before I knew it…” (Shion)

At the time when there were only the two of them in the beginning, wasn’t Rona acting like a parent in regards to Shion’s situation? Renya wondered with a deep sigh, while his eyes looked something like those of a dead fish. [2]

“Is that so? …Thanks for clearing this up for me. As it is like that, we will participate in that meeting together. I guess it is also fine if there aren’t all of our members present, right?” (Renya)

“Probably…” (Shion)

Shion replied without confidence.

There is already no other way but to apologize myself if something happens , Renya mentally prepared.

“For starters, let’s go to that Silver Cup. I guess I will also be able to explain if they ask anything.” (Renya)

Although it will be great if it ends with only a meeting without any trouble , as Renya thought so within his mind, for some reason he doubted it. He didn’t feel like finishing his thoughts which could be called a hunch.

And then, because of that bad kind of premonition, Renya also knew from the manifold experiences that he could say something cliché, like it never happened that he was wrong about his premonitions.

Translation Notes

[1] ED: Indeed, Loli-kami-sama wouldn’t bother handing out individual blessings, ever. Unless someone repeatedly kicked her head like it was a soccer ball.

[2] Literally, eyes like knotholes.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 21 – It seems to be a meet up

At the bar called ‘Silver Cup’

As it was in close proximity to the adventurer’s guild building, it was open both day and night. If you looked at it, you wouldn’t get the feeling that it was flourishing though.

There was a reason for that.

There wasn’t anything like a cute waitress. Although it wasn’t clear by what proportion the poor courtesy of the master was made up with his reticence, the main reason, apart from that, was due to the bar being affiliated with the adventurer’s guild.

Accordingly to its affiliation with the adventurer’s guild it was used by the guild’s members.

Speaking of adventurers, even though there were all sorts of them, from the best to the worst, generally they were not a very well-mannered bunch.

Since such poor-mannered guests gathered in there, normal guests didn’t approach the bar.

Even if they were members of the guild and there were likewise other establishments, given that there were many young men amongst them, they often went to establishments where there were many cute employees or beautiful onee-san’s.

Therefore, though this bar didn’t prosper, the adventurers gathered here if they had something to discuss or in case they had to decide upon something. This establishment was mostly used for those occasions.

Since there weren’t many guests, it was easy to talk about matters that weren’t supposed to be heard by other people. Understanding its nature, the guild likewise didn’t part with this bar, which wasn’t profitable, as it was helpful to the needs of adventurers.

Nevertheless, the costs for the bar were quite considerable, the guild itself employed a lovely waitress and a fairly skilled chef. Even though the guild attempted to improve the situation, since it was apparently a fatal fact that adventurers gathered there, the number of guests visiting there didn’t increase. The hired waitress likewise ended up quitting the job before long.

The above mentioned information was something Renya had heard from Rona.

Renya admired her quite profound investigation.

Pushing open the double door, they entered the dim bar interior. On the other side of the counter there was indeed a taciturn, unsociable middle-aged man with little thin hair on his head. As he turned his gaze towards them, it was as if he was asking “What do you want here?”

I guess you shouldn’t look at guests like that, although Renya thought that. But assuming he pointed it out to him, he wouldn’t reconsider to improve his attitude anyway. Renya also began to ask himself if the man had no courtesy at all.

“We came for the guild’s request. To meet up with those capturing the dungeon in the south. Are they here?” (Renya)

Apparently accepting the story, the middle-aged man, the master of the bar, pointed his chin to a corner.

Several tables could be seen to be occupied there. Although he could see a group freely chattering there as soon as he looked that way, Shion wasn't able to.

The master displaying such behaviour by jerking his chin, Shion noticed the blue veins popping up on Renya's forehead even though they were small.

"Re-Renya. Causing a commotion here…" (Shion)

"I know. Even though I understand it, this is a different story." (Renya)

Due to Shion's intervention, as Renya decided to head towards the indicated corner of the bar, he was detained by the voice of the bar's master.

"Wait, whatever-you-are-called-chan" (Master)

"…What?" (Renya)

"It is a rule here to order a drink as venue fee." (Master)

"Water" (Renya)

"Are you kidding me? As this is a bar, you should order alcohol, don't you think so? Or are you some brat that can't drink alcohol putting on airs being an adventurer?" (Master)

Towards the immediate reply, there were blue veins popping up on the forehead of the bar's master now.

Seeing Renya entering the bar accompanied by a woman and assuming Renya to be a brat not having lived for many years, not only did he glare in their direction with some displeasure, he also reprimanded Renya for ordering water at a bar.

Are you jesting or are you making fun of me? Either way, there is only a single way of educating him here, huh? Renya just judged.

The master of bar had to learn by heart the chill similar to to having ice stuffed into his spine and guts with all one's might to shut him up in the end.

The man in front of him just looked in his direction.

Although this wasn't anything different from just now, the quality of his gaze was different.

At first it was a look that judged a person's character.

After opening his mouth, the bar master's eyes looked like they were looking at a person he hated.

But soon after.

There wasn't a trace of a judgmental person's character anymore.

"A-Ah… Water is fine…?" (Master)

"Yes. Water is fine. Will you give us water?" (Renya)

Even though his voice was quiet, there was no feeling in it at all.

While suffering from the feeling of talking with someone as cold as ice, the master poured water into a glass, which was used to dilute alcohol usually, and rushed to place two of them on top of the counter. *(ED: Bastard waters down the drinks! No wonder his bar is failing!)*

“Water is fine with you, Shion?” (Renya)

“Eh? Ah, that’s right. This place doesn’t have the atmosphere to drink alcohol nor is it the time for that.” (Shion)

“I see. How much is it?” (Renya)

“He?” (Master) *(T/N: it’s a sound not the English “he”)*

The master of the bar who didn’t seem to comprehend what the question meant was asked by Renya indifferently.

“The price for water. It isn’t free of charge, now is it?” (Renya)

“A-Ah. It is 1 copper coin each.” (Master)

Leaving the mentioned amount of money on top of the counter, Renya turned his back on the master of the bar and handed one of the two glasses he was holding to Shion.

Although he did no more than that, this caused something like a sense of security as if the bar’s master was returning from the demonic boundary[1] to return to the world of humans, making him take a deep breath without realizing it himself.

While looking at the two walking to the spot where the group he himself had indicated were, the master etched Renya’s face firmly into his memory.

This fellow is definitely dangerous.

Guessing that something like that was going on within the mind of the master, without saying anything about this matter, Renya easily forgot about the existence of the master himself. Yet his facial expression didn’t clear up.

Even though there were many participants in the group they were heading towards, they were looking at them approaching while broadly grinning and laughing.

Without having any method of evaluating them, is it due to me not being able to calm down? Or because I feel some kind of discomfort? Though Renya clearly felt that he wanted to go home already, since turning back here could potentially mean them failing the request without actually being able to attempt to accomplish it in the end, he just endured it and sat down at the table.

As it seemed that it was arranged a single party per table, Shion immediately sat down on the seat next to Renya.

“It appears that somehow all members have assembled.” (Man)

A man giving off the feeling of being halfway through his thirties by looking at him, opened his mouth.

Sneaking a look on his body through the gaps in his armor reinforced with leather and metal plates, it was considerably tightened. He had short cut blonde hair and was surveying his surroundings vigilantly with his sharp blue eyes.

Two well-made long swords were hanging on his waist.

You could perceive by their appearance that both of them were used for quite a long time.

“He is the leader of the Party < Bearers of the Flaming Red >, called Hartz = Raisen *(T/N: >> harutsu = raisen <<)*.

He is a B-ranked adventurer skilled at using dual-wielding *(T/N: Nitouryuu)*.” (Shion)

Renya was taught by Shion secretly as she whispered into his ear.

It looked like she expressly sat next to Renya for that reason.

For some reason Shion’s knowledge about adventurers was quite detailed.

Inquiring the reason from Shion, Renya received the answer that they had done various detailed investigations like a schema as powerful adventurers = existences to yearn for, not so much for it being necessary to approach them.

I guess it is something like chasing after an idol, Renya considered.

At the table where Hartz was sitting there were furthermore 5 men and 2 women.

Shion murmured in a whisper that all of the men were warriors whereas the women were a magician and a thief.

Except for Hartz, everyone’s rank was C.

“Are those all of the members?” (Another man)

Stretching out both feets on top of the table slovenly and reclining on the back of his chair, a brown-haired young man raised his voice.

“He is the leader of the party called < Sharp Fang >, Zest = Fatality *(T/N: Lol no, I am not kidding you, >> zesuto = fatariti <<)*. He uses a rapier. Although his adventurer rank is C… and his behavior is ill-natured, his ability is apparently B-ranked.” (Shion)

Except for Zest, all 5 members of that party were women.

Zest was a warrior, the remaining were 2 thieves, 2 priestesses and 1 magician.

The magician was rank B whereas the thieves and priestesses were rank D.

Asking why the magician wasn’t acting as leader, the reply returned stated that she was an absent-minded woman.

For the sake of talking in a small voice, Shion brought her body quite close while Renya listened to her explanations. He admired and was likewise astonished by the skillful investigations having gone to such an extent.

“That, to whom are you pointing that out?”

Using a subdued voice, it was a man with ruffled up red hair holding a twisted cane and wearing an ashen robe.

“That is… the leader of < Pursuers >, Az = Hound *(T/N: >> Azu = Haundo <<)*. He is famous since it is unusual for a magician to be the party leader. His rank is D.” (Shion)

The party was composed of 4 men in solid plate armor.

Az being the magician, the 4 men labored during the time he exercised his magic. Shion said that Az prided himself in a strategy of brute force with the firepower of a magician.

The group of men’s role was that of a shield. Given that they really gave their undivided attention to shielding, Their rank wasn’t high as it was F.

Although Shion was great to have investigated this far, Renya began to get worried whether it was alright for the adventurers to leak this much information about themselves. An angry voice was raised.

“Oi, you chatting bastards.” (Zest)

“…?” (Renya)

No matter how hard he tried, the previous words seemed to be addressed towards them, perceiving this, Renya tilted his head in puzzlement looking at the owner of the voice.

The owner of the voice was Zest.

Without changing the same posture of lying on his back with his legs outstretched in a state similar to being served by his female party members on both sides, he turned a stern gaze towards Renya.

“Is it fine for there to be only the two of you~ ? How do you plan to survive?” (Zest)

“No there is a priestess. She is absent as she has to take care of the preparations. I am sorry if you feel offended by that.” (Renya)

They will find fault with it after all, huh? Renya had such thoughts.

Although it was within his expectations, as he strongly thought it would involve troubles, he ended up showing this on his facial expression, causing the other party to get even more aggressive.

Since it was a fact that their numbers were really too few, he had anticipated to apologize here. Renya stood up from his chair and bowed in apology towards Zest.

“Keh. This isn’t a game. Well, even if you guys die, the reward will only be equally split between those of us surviving, therefore I am fine with it.” (Zest)

“Stop it, Zest. As they are companions who accepted the same request, there is no gain in arguing before doing the job.” (Hartz)

As Hartz reined in Zest by rebuking him, Zest turned his line of sight from Renya to glare even more atrociously at Hartz.

“Do you have any problem with how I handle things?” (Zest)

“That’s not what I said. But, I don’t think there is any meaning in disputing either, is there?” (Hartz)

“I am sorry for causing a troublesome situation like this. However, we will properly do our job. It would be fine if you could just believe me on this.” (Renya)

“Though it is splendid for you to say such a thing, I don’t believe you bastard one bit. Who are you assholes anyway?” (Zest)

As he was about to give their name, he noticed that they hadn’t decided on a party name as of yet.

“The party name hasn’t been set yet. I am called Renya = Kurugi, someone who just became an adventurer not long ago.” (Renya)

“Haa ?!” (Zest)

Zest raised his voice loudly.

The voice was as if blatantly making fun of them. *Did I say anything strange?* Renya considered, but he couldn’t come up with anything being weird there.

“Is anything wrong?” (Renya)

“Nameless, just having become an adventurer recently?! I suppose that means that you bastards rank is F ?!” (Zest)

“Exactly, but what about it?” (Renya)

“Are you fooling me? Or are you trying to leech off us? Rank F party? And furthermore also only 3 people? Tell me, what will you bastards be able to do there?!” (Zest)

Your haughty opinion is reasonable, Renya could just think as he smiled wryly.

This had rubbed Zest the wrong way. His gaze was almost filled with a thirst for blood that was close to being drowned in wrath.

“T-The request i-is supposed to have no rank r-restriction. As there isn’t a restriction set on the number of people either, there is no particular problem with taking up the request…” (Shion)

“Shut up and get back!” (Zest)

As expected, Shion wasn’t able to endure it any longer and raised her voice.

Zest drowned that Shion with harsh words and threw his glass filled with alcohol, which he was holding in his hand, at Shion.

The glass came flying with a force where it was impossible to not get injured if you were hit by it. Although Shion put herself on guard reflexively, Renya caught the the flying glass in mid-air and softly put it on top of the table.

Not having hesitated in his movements, although about half of the contents ended up being spilled during the glass flew through the air, Renya placed the glass on top of the table without making any noise at that time and without the remaining half of the contents spilling over either it remained within the glass.

“Son of a bitch…!” (Zest)

This had increased Zest’s irritation even more.

As he signaled the Thief girl with his eyes, she threw knives aiming at Renya without any warning.

The number of them were four.

I guess I have to give them a slight lesson while not overdoing it, huh? Renya assessed. *Since we are the cause of the disturbance it can’t be helped to a certain degree.*

While quietly breathing a sigh, he caught the flying knives with both hands, holding two on each hand.

Making sure he stopped them, he held the cutting edge besides himself and thrust the four knives on top of the table surrounding the glass he had placed there before.

He wasn’t quite confident whether he would be able to throw the knives. While the knife-throwing girl’s eyes were colored in surprise looking at the situation wearing a facial expression of disbelief, Renya didn’t say anything at all.

“Though I heard that this would only be a meet up, I certainly can’t believe this to be true in such an atmosphere at all.” (Renya)

“Who do you think is the cause of that?” (Zest)

Due to the spectacle shown in front of their eyes, anyone could tell the high level of Renya’s skill.

Nevertheless, Zest's voice was filled with disagreement. Renya nodded in agreement.

"It is our fault. Therefore we will take our leave. Although we will do our job… there is no need for cooperation." (Renya)

"Renya-san?!" (Shion)

Shion held back her will to try protesting towards Renya's words.

"We will move our way. You will move your way. This will be for the best, don't you agree?" (Renya)

"Probably" (Hartz)

Hartz approved of Renya's words.

"We also have decided to act independently. We won't be able to devote ourselves to the job with such noisy clattering either." (Hartz)

"If that's the case, isn't it fine to end the meeting with this?" (Renya)

"Ah, the course of events is something we will decide on-site." (Hartz)

Towards Renya's question of confirmation, Hartz nodded while grinning broadly and laughing.

"We likewise don't need any cooperation… rather it will be a nuisance." (Az)

Az said in a whisper. Hartz clapped his hands together with a *pon*.

"This is the opinion of 3 of the 4 parties. Thus it's settled." (Hartz)

"Don't decide all by yourselves. After all, after looking at you bastards, you will essentially become a burden." (Zest)

"In this case, we are done." (Renya)

As he gave her a little nod, Shion's back tensed as she seemed to want to say something. Renya decided to leave the place.

From the place in his rear Zest called out to him quite hatefully.

"Oi, rookie. Do your best to watch your back!" (Zest)

"Same to you." (Renya)

Without turning around either, Renya replied. The feeling of anger in his back further increased in intensity.

After that, even though there were noises of things falling and crashing on the ground, Renya didn't concern himself with it and left the bar without delay.

At any rate, they have prevented Zest from affecting the surroundings by losing his temper, huh? I guess it is a situation of him dropping and breaking things to vent his anger. I can somehow understand the situation without even looking.

"Renya… I am…" (Shion)

"Okay, stop there. The breakdown of the meet up was mainly my fault." (Renya)

As he was about to return to the inn, at Renya's back Shion started to speak about something in a murmur. Hearing

that, Renya stopped Shion from continuing her words.

Even though her facial expression became surprised, given that she nevertheless tried to resume he words, Renya turned in the direction of Shion and grabbed hold of her forehead using a light iron claw on her.

“Ah, ouch… ouuuuucchhh… Renya !? It’s creaking ! My skull is being pressed in!?” (Shion)

“If I tell you to not mind it, then don’t worry about it. If Rona says anything, it is fine to tell her that I started to flip out again. Do you understand? If you understand, then answer me. In case you don’t give me an answer, I will assume you didn’t understand and will continue.” (Renya)

“Continue!? B-but. They made fun of us. In the first place I was… wa wa wa wa wa wa was!?” (Shion)

“There is no answer~ …I shall continue. By the way, Shion will you believe me that I crushed the head of a goblin with one hand?” (Renya)

“There is no way to be able to do such stupid thing… or is it possible?” (Shion)

“I tested it out while disposing the corpses at that pioneer’s village. To my surprise, I managed to do so.” (Renya)

“I-I have understood! Since I understand, release me~ !?” (Shion)

Releasing his hand, Shion grabbed her head with both hands while becoming teary-eyed looking at Renya.

It was still visible within her eyes that she wanted to add something. Renya only raised his mouth’s edges floating a smile while his fingers made wriggling movements. Giving this kind of display sealed off any further objections from Shion.

“Maa, I thought that it would result in troubles from the very beginning.” (Renya)

My premonition wasn’t off after all, huh? Once again I couldn’t help to be caught by it. Renya complained while just watching the back of the escaping Shion.

Translation Notes

[1] 魔境 or ‘makyou’ – Literally “haunts of wicked men”, but I didn’t really think that fits well. The 2 Kanji mean witches/demons/evil spirit – boundary/region/border/some more. So I chose a more fitting expression.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 22 – It seems to be travelling by carriage

“You did it on purpose.” (Rona)

On the rattling and shaking carriage Rona looked at Renya with scornful eyes while reaching that conclusion.

Renya stared back at Rona with a look of “What do you mean?”

Rona intently stared into his direction as she crossed her arms and legs. Not donning her usual *pattsun pattsun* priestess’ garb, she wore a priestess’s garb accurately sized in regards to her body line with having attached a chest protector and coverings for the back of the hands and wrists.

A one-handed mace was hanging at her hips.

Her fluffy hair gave off a feeling of being tightly bundled together. Although her large eyes were without any change, for some reason the helpless feeling within them had faded since the time they met. She appeared to be clad in something like fighting spirit.

“You disguised yourself…” (Renya)

As Renya said so calmly, Rona didn’t comprehend what he was talking about.

“Well it’s fine, however, what was on purpose?” (Renya)

After leaving the city, they had been jolted around on the rattling carriage for quite some time.

Even if you could describe it as a carriage in a single word, it wasn’t the typical type used by ordinary passengers to be boarded for traveling. Only a single horse was tied to the wagon which actually made it quite frugal.

All that it had was a bench installed on the load carrying tray other than the coachman’s seat. Naturally there was no roof either.

Given that there wasn’t anything like cushions spread out on the seats for comfort, it turned into the situation of sitting on a wooden plank. This resulted in an extreme burden on the buttock and hips.

Did the adventurer’s guild hear about the story at the time of the meet up from some of the participating parties? As consequence of preparing 4 carriages for the participating parties, they could feel at ease for not having to be in an awkward situation by being together with another party.

However, since the a coachman hadn’t been provided, certainly each party had to choose a coachman from within their ranks to drive the carriage.

In Renya’s party only Shion was capable of riding a horse.

Renya hadn’t any experience in riding a horse whereas Rona, who apparently had never handled a horse by herself, always rode behind Shion on Shion’s horse.

Naturally, Shion was seated in the coachman seat and Renya and Rona were seated in the form of facing each other on top of the carriage load tray.

“Your aggravating the meet up, that is.” (Rona)

Since Rona didn’t participate in the meet up herself, she didn’t know what happened although the result was that they would participate in the current request. From the looks directed at them by the other parties at the meeting place *(T/N: for the carriages)*, she mostly understood what happened in general.

Even though she thought at first that Shion had provoked the other party by getting carried away with her questioning, Renya immediately denied this. As a result of him claiming to have done it himself, Rona started to give him a speech about said matter.

“I didn’t particularly did it on purpose…” (Renya)

“…When you though of getting it over with without a fuss, you weren’t able to do so, isn’t that right…?” (Rona)

He wasn’t able to deny it.

After seeing Renya nodding, Rona continued.

“At any rate, rather than uniting and cooperating in a bad mood, it would be more easy-going to work independently on top of a definite separation, isn’t that what you thought?” (Rona)

“As for whether that might be the truth or not… is it a topic we should talk about here?” (Renya)

“Is there any problem? It won’t be heard by the other parties, will it?” (Rona)

Although the road was poorly maintained, causing the carriage to rattle and shake, a conversation could be somehow established while facing each other. But it was a situation where it wouldn’t be possible to hear the others’ voice if they were to slightly increase their distance from each other.

Renya’s group’s carriage was placed at the end of the line. As a consequence of the four carriages traveling in single file, there was no reason to be concerned about the conversation between Rona and Renya being leaked to the other parties even if they had very excellent ears.

Though there wasn’t, Renya pointed with his gaze towards the coachman seat.

Towards Renya indicating that Shion could hear them Rona shook her head left and right.

“Because she is controlling the horse, she won’t turn her attention to listening to us.” (Rona)

“Such baka” (Renya)

“That’s how it is. So, what did you do?” (Rona)

For an instant it crossed his mind to dodge the topic.

Even though Rona said that she wouldn’t hear it, there was no more than a slight distance from the loading tray to the coachman’s seat. It was a doubtful point to say that she really couldn’t hear it.

But, even if she particularly heard it, since it wasn’t a troublesome matter either, Renya obediently answered.

“It is as you say. Looking at the faces of the other parties, I thought of doing this when I heard their rank.” (Renya)

“Can I hear the reason too?” (Rona)

“Ah, everyone there was high-ranked and there were a lot of people. I understood at once that they looked down upon us without a doubt. Such braggarts.” (Renya)

Saying this, within Renya's mind mainly Zest's face rose to the surface.

Because an adventurer's rank, even more so than their real ability, was decided by taking into consideration such things as contributions towards the guild as well.

Therefore, something like being high-ranked didn't mean they were remarkable.

But Zest came snarling at them as soon as he heard Renya's group's rank.

"Rather than linking up with unpleasant companions, we will certainly be at ease working independently. Besides, there is also no reason to treat ourselves to exploring the dungeon together with everyone in such numbers, don't you agree?" (Renya)

"…Yes, that's right, isn't it? Usually you would split into two groups or something like that. One group remaining outside the dungeon would be the normal way of handling things." (Rona)

Even though with something like 19 people there would be no way to move through the narrow passages of the dungeon. Everyone entering and exploring at the same time would have an exceedingly poor efficiency.

Generally the roles would be divided and it would be decided who would perform the exploration, Rona said.

In this case, although the party staying outside the dungeon would draw the short end of the stick, in the situation the exploring party didn't come back, since a part of their duty was to go to the city to request a rescue, as for maintaining a lifeline, it was the necessary method to choose in case the amount of participants was large.

"If that's the case, it is likewise fine to divide the exploration into four different directions." (Renya)

"Personally I don't recommend doing that." (Rona)

Even though the mater spoken of wasn't that weird or unusual, they would be exploring a dangerous area without a lifeline if they followed through with what Renya said.

I guess Rona, who wants to put safety first, will find it difficult to approve my opinion.

"But don't you think it is likewise dangerous to act in a situation of poor cooperation with unreliable teammates?" (Renya)

"Indeed, I can agree with such a view." (Rona)

"Anyway, I plan to move with a strategy of working reasonably without overdoing it within the regulated number of days." (Renya)

"It is a splendid strategy, leader. I completely support it." (Rona)

Even for Rona, who was mainly concerned about safety first, Renya's plan should be something that should cause her to raise both hands in agreement.

How far will you go for Shion's sake? Renya smiled wryly.

"So, will we immediately start capturing the dungeon once we arrived while jolting our way to the dungeon's entrance?" (Renya)

"By no means, doesn't the journey take one day? Today we will camp close to the entrance of the dungeon. The dungeon capture will start from tomorrow onwards." (Rona)

"Camping today, huh? …I don't expect we will be able to get a meal." (Renya)

As Renya gloomily grumbled, Rona laughed.

Shion, who probably heard that laughter, raised her voice in complaint.

“Somehow… you two having such a fun chat has me worried.” (Shion)

“We haven’t talked about anything important. Leaving that aside, you should concentrate on the driving.” (Rona)

“I wish you could change with me once in a while…” (Shion)

She was in a situation where there wasn’t anyone she could talk with, as it was an important task to take care that the horse walked in a straight line by grasping the reins tightly. *Earnestly continuing the control of the horse is something extraordinarily difficult.* Renya, who couldn’t handle a horse, could likewise tell by simple imagination.

“If I were able to handle a horse, I would trade places with you anytime.” (Renya)

“If that’s the case, since I can teach with great attention to detail how to move your hips, won’t you have a go once, Renya?” (Shion)

As Shion looked over her shoulder laughing with a broad grin, Renya, who couldn’t endure it, shouted.

“It has nothing to do with how I move my hips?! Rather, where did you learn such an expression? I wonder whether you could properly teach me just even once? Also, stop that kind of laughter.” (Renya)

“Renya-san, Shion is likely bored…” (Rona)

Secretly casting down her eyes, Rona apparently pretended to not have heard Shion’s words somehow.

Even though Rona hadn’t taught Renya regarding who and where from Shion was until now, if she was originating from a noble bloodline as Rona had said, you could pretty much expect Shion to be classified as a person referred to as ohimesama *(Princess)*.

The reality was that she was engaging in lightly dirty jokes while broadly grinning about it. And, apparently it was a fact that Rona, who was attending her, couldn’t bear to look him in the eyes due to that.

“Before it escalates any more, may I request you to keep her company…?” (Rona)

Without trying to cover for anyone, Rona’s words suggested a possibly even more outrageous situation.

As for Renya, though he didn’t particularly mind listening and talking about indecent topics, it might not be the same for Rona. Thus he got up from his seat.

“Understood. You’ve had quite a hard time of it.” (Renya)

While seeing Rona softly holding down the inner corner of her eyes (ED: Keeping a poke face), Renya safely moved on top of the swaying carriage load transom and sat down on the coachman’s seat receiving the reins from Shion.

After that, by taking Shion’s hand, he took lessons in handling a horse, for a while.

As expected there was no need to move one’s hips. Renya received from Shion the basics in how to deal with a horse with great attention. Somehow or other it came to the point where he was able to drive the carriage in a straight line.

Just taking the opportunity, Rona also changed with Renya. Shion, who sat next to her, taught her attentively. And now, although Renya didn’t fail to notice Shion extending her hands firmly around Rona’s waist, the two appeared to

be messing around while making a *kyaa kyaa* noise. A considerably threatening glare came piercing from the carriage in front of them.

Maybe we are too loud? Or there isn't enough of a feeling of tension? Or what to do you intend to do if you call monsters like that? considering various possibilities, Renya didn't intend in the least to caution the clamoring two even though he quite clearly understood the gaze. The two began to grapple on top of the coachman's seat, although absentmindedly, he properly gazed at them.

Renya thought.

In the first place, two beautiful girls fooling around in something like a scene of light antics, just seeing that is a healing for me. So to say, it is something that should be called a sight for sore eyes.

While it may be true that this might invite a small amount of trouble, it would be a great mistake to look at them with an accusing gaze, Renya was thinking.

If we were to travel within some dim forest, certainly it might be viewed as a problem, but currently we are traveling on a normal road. It is a place that is kept fairly secure.

Furthermore, tentatively, there are also 19 adventurers present. Since two girls making a racket is making them overly angry, I guess they don't possess a great deal of tolerance, huh?

Renya remembered looking at each party's member at the time of introductions.

Zest's party only had women.

It wouldn't be strange for an uproar coming from there either, although he thought that, Zest's carriage was advancing as the vanguard of the four carriages. From what he had seen they were strangely peacefully advancing.

Zest himself held a small silver-haired girl within his arms.Although he was sitting in a posture of having his legs stretched out after all, Renya noticed the other party members exchanging *chira chira* gazes and then turning away.

Somehow, the little girl in Zest's arms seemed to be his favorite. The other members restrained each other. The current situation seemed to be a standstill.

It was another girl, than the little girl held in Zest's arms, who threw the knives at Renya yesterday.

It was easy to see that she was a magician from the fact that she wore a robe, which had a design that had been altered, and held a cane.

At a glance, although it didn't appear to be a harem party filling any man with envy, moving to such an extent behind the scenes, you wouldn't consider it by any measure from the visible attitude of the party.

However, Zest's mind wasn't in a state where he would notice that.

Was he a big-shot? Or was he a baka?

After thinking for a short while, Renya concluded that it probably had to be the latter.

Continuing, it was Hartz' carriage, but somehow there was an atmosphere as if they were attending a funeral, wrapped in silence and with dark feelings.

All members were checking their equipment and making sure to be focused. They kept the occasionally occurring conversations to the utmost necessary minimum. There was no sign that they would continue their conversation.

For the time being, even though the female members were also associating with each other, you couldn't catch of a hint of something like gorgeousness or youthfulness.

In return, as it felt somehow like the composed way of talking of quite influential personage. Renya stopped observing them as looking at them was somewhat suffocating.(ED: Even Editor-san doesn't know what this means. Pretentious? Stuffy? What?) (T/N: Imagine being in a room with influential people having a tense, gloomy mood as if on a funeral and trying to talk to them, most people would have problems catching their breath there or will quickly wear out mentally … in other words it's suffocating [word used by author-san as well])

Incidentally, Renya didn't cover Az's party traveling in the third position from the beginning.

The reason for that was quite simple.

There were only four sets of armors and a gloomy magician riding on that carriage. *(T/N: LOL)*

But, after glancing at them there was something unexpected, apparently a fairly good rapport between Az and the four sets of armor had been established.

After all, being close as guards and with the duty of serving as shields, in its own way this was a relationship of mutual trust, or rather, it might be natural in this situation for them to become close.

While thinking about such things, Renya shook alongside the vibrations of the wagon. While earnestly being fed up with having his hips and buttock being harassed by the hard wood, the line of carriages arrived at their destination.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 23 – It seems to be the dungeon's entrance

Dungeon's entrance, hearing those words, Renya was reminded of something along the lines of there being something like a gate equipped with a grandiose door. An architectural structure really declaring its own existence as an entrance.

But, trying to ask Shion's group about it, although there seemed to be such unusual dungeon entrances as well, apparently those architectural structure type dungeons with such neat entrances could be listed in the category of being quite rare.

So, what kind of entrance does a living type dungeon have then?

The answer to that was the entrance in front of Renya's eyes.

"…Here?" (Renya)

Asking the question while pointing at it, Shion's group nodded while indicating their agreement with an *un un.*

In regards to the vicinity, the place was on a slightly elevated hill.

At the summit of that hill, as if it was normal, there was a wide opening of a dark shaft which somehow allowed a single adult to pass through it.

It was really just a hole.

There wasn't a door or anything like that either.

The location was right in the midst of a grassland straying a bit from the road.

Except for the sporadically visible growing grove of trees, there was nothing else there.

Renya was disappointed as he had imagined something a lot more exaggerated.

For the time being this dungeon entrance can be classified as being merely a hole, huh? In order to descend deeper into the hole, there were some stairs. (ED: Imagine stairs in a removable floor style entrance to a basement. That kind of disappointing entrance.)

"Living type dungeon… ?" (Renya)

"That's right" (Shion)

"And why the stairs?" (Renya)

"If there weren't any stairs, you wouldn't be able to descend down there, isn't that right?" (Shion)

Even though the appearance of Shion was as if she wanted to inquire as to why he asked such an obvious thing, Renya cocked his head in puzzlement while feeling not being fully satisfied with something.

Doesn't this feel like it's kindly asking us to come down in order to carefully lure us in?

This question was answered by Rona.

“For the sake of it’s own growth, the living type dungeon wants living creatures to visit it. Occasionally it is necessary for the dungeon to absorb the corpse of a living creature, that emits magic power and life force. For this reason it stockpiles things like rare metals within itself and it is said that those will be arranged as treasures.” (Rona)

“Is it fine to somewhat understand it as bait to lure in people?” (Renya)

“It definitely isn’t a mistake to think so.” (Rona)

“Despite spawning monsters, it needs resources from the outside, huh?” (Renya)

“One theory is that after a while has passed since it was spawned, a monster seems to use the resources of the dungeon… but there are only a very few people investigating these circumstances.” (Rona)

“Why?” (Renya)

“A young dungeon will be swiftly captured and its core will be destroyed in order to exterminate it. Leaving a dungeon alone for months and years so that these things can be studied, due to the danger, there is no leeway for such a thing.” (Shion)

Shion explained.

Upon the destruction of the dungeon core, the dungeon would slowly vanish.

Since the dungeon core could be used as a high quality magic gem, it was a business involving a large sum of money.

And so, just as the dungeon was generated, because the amount of monsters was scarce as well as its stratum being shallow, the adventurers ended up quickly exterminating it for money.

A dungeon avoiding the notice of adventurers or luckily cutting down the adventurers, who came to capture it, could transform into a being of grave danger with the passage of months and years causing its stratum to become deep and enabling it to summon something like high ranking monsters.

In that situation even money wouldn’t be worth the risk any more for adventurers. For the researchers, their objective of their study would be compromised before long due to the extreme danger and continuing the research would become very difficult anyway in such a case.

Shion said that this was the kind of thing called a living type dungeon.

“In other words, it remains a mystery, huh?” (Renya)

“Maa… that’s right.” (Rona)

Mystery, such a word was quite convenient, Renya earnestly believed.

“All things considered, this dungeon isn’t very lucky.” (Shion)

Shion said while going around and surveying the vicinity.

Although the elevation wasn’t very high, since the surroundings were completely plain, it was possible to look quite far into the distance while viewing from the top of the hill from its only slight height.

“It’s as if if it was asking to be discovered having sprung forth in such a place.” (Rona)

“Maybe the dungeon itself made this hill?” (Renya)

“Un, that’s probably right. I think the part that is the entrance and stairs was risen above the ground.” (Shion)

If we assume that it is as Shion says, it would be a very stupid story. Renya thought.

Because there was nothing obstructing the view of the vicinity, any kind of change in the terrain would be immediately noticeable.

Also, the place being where it was, you could say it wasn’t located more than a few hundred meters away from the road.

Even though it would likewise be possible to use a terrain with many ups and downs for deception or for it to be deep within a forest, in the current situation even that was an impossible story.

Right after being born, the dungeon would be terminated for the sake of money. Although it wasn’t a living thing in a stricter sense, it somehow ended up inviting pity.

“It’s always a sorrowful story. As there are many things someone would desire scattered about within, this dungeon shares such a lonely story as well.” (Renya)

While looking at the top of the hill from its bottom, Renya said.

“Is it alright to make camp this close to it?” (Renya)

Since the hill itself wasn’t very high, it was naturally a short distance to its bottom, too.

At a place no more than 10 meters away from the dungeon’s entrance, the carriages of the other parties were parked. They had started to prepare the camping ground.

The carriage, which Renya’s group used to get here, was also tied to a stake which had been stuck at a location close by.

“In a place with such a good view it will be alright. I think it will be safe as it will be difficult for animals to approach and monsters won’t appear either.” (Rona)

“And the possibility of monsters coming from the dungeon?” (Renya)

“There is none. Basically, monsters that spawn within the dungeon won’t leave it. Although it has already happened that a dungeon spit out monsters causing a phenomenon called after having raised its scale to a certain extent, this is something that only occurs once every ten years with an aged dungeon.” (Shion)

“More importantly, shouldn’t we start preparing our campsite?” (Rona)

The time having passed through to the evening, little by little it started to become dark as night had crept upon them.

Thinking that it would be better to finish the preparations while there was still some light from the sun remaining, Rona urged them to go down from the hill.

Arriving at the side of the bound carriage, Renya took out the luggage prepared by Rona from his [Inventory].

Without [Inventory], or rather this skill called void storage, it would be quite difficult to survive , Renya judged.

Thanks to this it wasn’t necessary to place the luggage on the clattering carriage load tray.

Because of the other parties putting quite the amount of luggage at their feet, it could be expected that the space on the carriage load tray was quite narrow for the members boarding it with the exception of the coachman's seat. Since Renya's party was able to use the space of the carriage load tray, it was possible for them to lie down properly during the journey.

But then again it wasn't possible to get any decent sleep because of the vibration.

At first he took out a wooden hammer, a sharp triangle tip with a width of around 30 cm, 10 planks of about 1 m length and a shovel.

Digging a hole at a place in the shadows of the carriage seen from the other parties side, he completed a simple toilet by completely enclosing that area with something like a partitioning screen by hammering in the planks.

Then he dug a shallow hole a bit away from the toilet location next.

Enclosing the area with stones, the fire place was finished.

Erecting metal fittings in the shape of the character Y and then placing a pole on top of them, it served as cooking tool to hang the pot there.

Renya picked up the stones in the surroundings of the city before departure.

The stones, even though one cell of the grid was consumed when a separate item was stored away in the [Inventory], after stuffing the stones into a bag, it resulted in taking only one cell of the grid with [Bag filled with Stones] no matter how many he put in there.

As it was a method that disregarded the weight, he understood that something like this was a cheat setting no matter how you looked at it.

Finishing this, next he constructed the tent.

Setting up the fulcrum, he covered it with a cloth and affixed it to a stake that was hammered into the ground.

As long as he was able to properly understand how to make something, it wasn't hard work at all.

Without spending significant time either, Renya finished constructing the tent.

It was only one tent.

Gazing at the shape and quality of the tent he had constructed, Renya opened his mouth.

"Naa, I should build another one after all…" (Renya)

"Isn't that pointless?" (Shion)

Was the immediate reply from Shion.

Within the camp it was settled that one person of the party had to stand guard.

In case of constructing two tents here, for male and female use, it would doubtlessly develop into a situation of one of the tents not being used for a period of time.

This being dismissed as pointless by Shion, he gave up on it.

To Renya's objection of a man and woman in the same tent and so on, Shion tragically shot it down by declaring that there wouldn't be any problem as they would sleep in sleeping bags anyway and since he would be asleep he

didn’t have to mind Rona either.

“Is there some problem?” (Shion)

Although Renya was in the mood of hanging on to his argument, he couldn’t find a valid complaint. As he looked at Rona in order to receive help, she indicated that such a measure wasn’t unacceptable this way and only shrugged her shoulders.

“Aren’t we companions? Or will Renya be in pain by sleeping next to Rona or me?” (Shion)

“In a certain sense you could say that it will cause pain, but it’s not to the extent of weeping either.” (Renya)

While giving up on them understanding that pain, Renya took out ceramic containers which contained a liquid and a pot from his [Inventory].

He had received the liquid from the inn’s master who shared it with him.

It was the soup which had spend time extracting the essence of various types of vegetables and animal bones boiling at a simmer. To Renya’s tongue the flavor was like consomme from his previous world.

This was what Renya had requested from the inn’s master to share with him and what he had preserved in his [Inventory].

Below the pot, he placed firewood and quickly using a flint to ignite the firewood, the fire spread.

Even though it would have been fine to ask Shion to use , it was a lot faster to finish it this way rather than calling out to her. Ignoring the somehow unhappy seeming Shion as much as possible he tried to focus on continuing his work.

Getting the ingredients ready, he prepared the ingredients with the kitchen knife they bought alongside the foodstuff.

Peeling the skin off the vegetables, he cut them into appropriate sizes and tossed them into the pot.

Though they had mainly chosen to purchase root crop-like things, Renya didn’t know their names.

For the time being, when he ate the cooked vegetables at the market, they were quite delicious. All of them were goods selected by the shop owners at the designated stores.

As for the meat, although Renya was truly a bit surprised, besides selling meat from livestock and wild animals, it was also normal to sell monster meat.

In case of stew, the salesperson recommended meat of the horn rabbit to be the best. Even though Renya decided to buy it, without trying it first he wouldn’t be able to understand its kind of taste.

He swiftly cut the lump of meat into mouthsized pieces and tossed them into the pot as well.

Lightly frying the ingredients in the pot, he added the soup he had received to it and also a little bit of water allowing the stew to boil.

Sampling with only a small scoop of the soup, he adjusted the flavor with salt and pepper, which had become common for some reason in this world, and the dish was finished. *(T/N: Usually pepper was a luxurious ingredient in medieval ages, that’s why the MC’s comment on it.)*

It was really just a simple stew with vegetables and meat.

Although Renya was dissatisfied with it, he garnished the stew with the hard baked bread completing the modest

dinner.

Dividing the servings, rather than using something like a shallow soup plate, he chose something with a little more depth.

As we will eat it outdoors, I think it will be easy to spill it if the bottom is too shallow, Renya worried.

While he was at it, he took out several fruits to serve them alongside.

After all it would be a bad situation to not have a dessert following the meal.

The chosen fruit was a peach-colored round fruit called nectar *(T/N: >> nekuta <<)*. The skin was soft enough that it could be peeled off with the fingers. As he tore it off plenty of fruit juice spilled and the pure white flesh of the fruit became visible.

Although its appearance reminded Renya of a peach, the sourness he felt alongside the sweetness while trying to eat it was yet at another potency. Even though it was something totally different from what he had imagined, since this sourness felt refreshing, it became his favorite sweet food.

Adding spoons to the soup bowls, Renya thought it to be wearisome in some way to eat those while sitting on the ground. Thus he took out a table, which cozily had the height of around the waist, from his [Inventory] and lined up the dishes on top of it. Renya noticed that the mood in his vicinity somehow turned strange.

He felt that the gaze, which was directed at him from Shion and Rona, was holding both emotions, being somehow amazed and being astonished.

From the other parties he felt amazement, or anger, or envy, or other somehow not quite comprehensible gazes directed at him.

Looking at the other parties, they were sitting directly on the ground, having ignited an open fire, eating a light brown somethings that could be deemed to be dried meat alongside some crunchy hard bread they had toasted, which seemed to be the same bread that Renya's party had. Although he didn't know whether it was water, ale or wine, they were drinking something. That was what they had for dinner.

"What is it?" (Renya)

"Now, how should I say it? Although it is a good thing to have abundant eating habits…" (Shion)

"We just have to get used to Renya-san." (Rona)

"Since I had to rush the preparations, there are still various rough points to be addressed." (Renya)

Even though it was good fortune to have received a share of the soup from the inn, it was painful that he couldn't collect more accurate seasonings, Renya said.

Originally there would be more things like herbs or spices. Though he wanted to wake up early in order to collect and buy more things for testing like sauces and vinegar, there wasn't any kind of time for that.

"You can deal with this problem next time, this time you will have to endure with this. I wasn't able to arrange anything but either water or wine for drinking. This is also a task for next time." (Rona)

"No, I think being able to say something like me having to endure with this is a luxury in its own way." (Renya)

Because normally adventurers kept the amount of luggage to as little as possible, Renya was also aware that the action of bringing along their kitchen utensils and the likes wasn't the norm.

However, since the [Inventory] was such a convenient item, such a thing like not using it would be a waste.

On top of that, even for washing the used dishes and utensils with water afterwards, because he had put one barrel completely filled with water into his [Inventory], there was no reason to not use it for their hands either.

“Since we also have chairs, please properly tell me if it is unpleasant to eat while standing. I have chairs for all three of us.” (Renya)

Taking it this far up to here, as you would expect, even the gazes of the other parties facing into this direction, though most of their looks turned into holding envy, he warded it off by not being concerned about this at all. Renya began to taste his own dinner right away.

Albeit slightly delayed, Shion’s group started to also eat the dinner lined up on the table with relish while likewise experiencing the slightly disconcerting gazes the other parties sent their way.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 24 – It seems to be a strange story

Renya chose to stand guard at night as second.

Although the sequential order of the turns in the rotation were Shion, then Renya and finally Rona, there was a specific reason for doing it this way.

After finishing the meal and taking a rest, the things like tableware etc. were cleaned and put back into the [Inventory]. Considering that there was around 8 hours until the next morning after going to sleep, when it came to standing watch, as there were 3 people, it turned into one person having a 2 hour shift and 2 having a 3 hour shift.

For the sake of Shion, who had the first 2 hours shift, there was only one possible option for who had to do the second shift.

Thus, with Renya taking the second shift, Shion and Rona were able to sleep for a long uninterrupted time.

As he had the second shift, he had to endure interrupted sleeping hours as he would sleep for 2 hours, then stay awake for 3 hours and then go sleep for yet another 3 hours.

This was simply hard.

Since he certainly understood that it would be difficult, there was no way to make Shion's group do that.

However, there are no clocks in this world.

While there are no clocks, how do they measure the time? Speaking of that, for some reason hourglasses exist. The adventurers were able to roughly measure one hour with a portable hourglass.

As he measured the timing by frequently turning the hourglass upside down in alternation, time passed without anything happening that night and before long the day dawned.

The problem occurred at dawn.

Changing the guard with Rona, Renya crawled into his own sleeping pack and, single-mindedly closing his eyes and ears, he fell asleep. In the middle of entering and exiting a drowsy and shallow sleep, he was awoken by the feeling of suffocation.

To start with, he noticed that he couldn't move his body at all.

Because he was inside the sleeping bag, even though he was aware that he was unable to do anything more than squirming around like a caterpillar (Lit: bagworm), even those wriggling movements were partially sealed off in his current state.

Furthermore he felt something heavy on top of his body.

He rejected the first thought of being attacked from the beginning.

In case it was Shion on watch outside, it would be a conceivable possibility, but currently it was Rona who was standing guard outside.

Even if she were in a mood like *poya poya*, it appears that beyond being someone who received training in her own way, the person herself was a knight. *(T/N: ぽやぽや is the sfx, no idea what that is symbolising though)*

Therefore it was difficult to imagine her allowing someone to attack without even raising her voice.

If that's the case in this situation, the other person inside the tent had to be taken into consideration from the start. That's the reasoning he arrived at.

"No no! For such an overused event to actually occur, there is…" (Renya)

The shape of the sleeping bag is easy to understand if you imagined a single person entering the length of a pouch. (ED: Everyone knows what a sleeping bag looks like, BAKA!) /

In order to enhance its nature of retaining warmth the bag was made out of clothes filled with cotton. For the sake of not letting the air inside escape it had a drawstring near the head.

Since warmth is something essential for somehow sleeping comfortably, they thought it to be something convenient for travelers, but it was a purchased article which was extremely unpopular with adventurers because you would be delayed in dealing with suffering a sudden attack no matter what you do.

Although Renya decided to absolutely remodel it sooner or later, at the time he saw it for the first time, he hadn't this kind of time right now. At the time of reluctantly entering the sleeping bag, he entered it holding his knife. He made it a rule for using the sleeping bag so that he could tear it apart from the inside when he tried to leave in case of an emergency.

Even though it was more or less normal for commoners to put on a light blanket for sleeping, Renya, who strongly opposed this by stating that he wouldn't be able to sleep in such thin bedding, could be called the cause of bringing along the sleep bags.

Given that sort of circumstances, he only bend his neck looking at the top of his chest. There he saw the appearance of a head with black hair somewhat pressing and grinding against his chest.

As expected, it would become a nuisance while sleeping, huh? The usually done up hair placed high on her head was naturally spilling down the back. But, despite this being the only difference, he was surprised to feel that she somehow had a more than usual powerful feminine allure.

The facial expression, which always gave off the feeling of looking dignified, is slovenly happy. Is that because of her still being half asleep? Although Renya wasn't able to guess what kind of dream she had, she sometimes rubbed her head and face with a grinding sound.

Suppressing his boiling head with the force of reason, Renya sorted out his current condition.

Though I don't know how it came to be, Shion has skilfully crawled out of her sleeping bag. Since it is within the camping ground for the time being, we will be able to immediately deal with it in case something happened. As she had entered the bag wearing a thin shirt and trousers. I guess she was able to withstand the night's coldness in that outfit.

Although it would be originally fine for her to return to her own sleeping bag, he deemed it impossible for her to be that skillful while still asleep, even if she wanted to.

Therefore Shion clung with all her might to the bundle right next to her trying to get cosy, I suppose?'

If the contents of that bundle were Rona, it wouldn't have been a big problem. Unfortunately, the contents were Renya.

What kind of look would Rona have if she were to find us at this point? was something he didn't know. Even though Renya tried to somehow escape from within Shion's embrace, since Shion was fully using both her arms and legs to tightly cling to Renya, Renya was in the state of a caterpillar in the sleeping bag. He wasn't able to slip away while wriggling and since he couldn't extract his hands from the sleeping bag, he couldn't tear it off either.

On top of that Shion's head was placed on top of Renya's chest to begin with. Furthermore, as consequence of the sleeping back being thick and stiff, such things as the pleasant fragrance of a girl and her soft touch, as it was told in some tales to be the side benefit for typical protagonists, couldn't even be felt at all.

She had merely become a restraining device.

Moreover, in case they were discovered like this, it would cause a lot of misunderstandings, resulting in bringing damage on the scale of a god of pestilence. (ED: How would it be misunderstood, jackass! You're in a sleeping bag!!!)

This is how highly Renya valued getting Shion off in this current condition.

"Hey! …Wake up. Shion?" (Renya)

"Nyu…?" (Shion)

Due to the somehow weird reaction, Renya ended up in silence for a short while.

Towards him calling out to Shion, she only showed a slight reaction similar to being cranky and immediately ended up once again falling asleep gripping the sleeping bag and grinding her head against it.

"Ne…" (Shion)

"Don't utter such strange groans. Hey! You got to seriously wake up! If we are discovered by Rona in such place, It will become something disastrous for me…" (Renya)

"…What is it about me?" (Rona)

Looking at the entrance of the tent because of the slow voice, Rona came and poked only her head inside the tent with a sleepy facial expression with her eyelids half closed.

Renya felt uneasy about that expression wondering whether she would raise her voice finally after first misunderstanding the situation. *I have to somehow wake Shion, huh?* Though he struggled violently to escape from within her arms, he stopped writhing as he noticed that there wasn't any kind of reaction from Rona either after a short time.

Looking at Rona, because of her posture of having only poked in her head first, she motionlessly stared at Renya and Shion with her still sleepy face.

Although her mood felt somehow odd, Renya timidly called out to her.

"O-Oi. Rona?" (Renya)

"…ai" (Rona)

Her reaction is odd after all.

Notwithstanding that she should have slept for at least 5 hours, it felt like it wouldn't even be strange for those eyelids to completely sink in at any time as she was repeatedly opening and closing them.

“… What’s wrong? …” (Renya)

“For some reason I am… somehow terribly… sleepy.” (Rona)

“What the heck’s with you? What are you saying…” (Renya)

“Uu… I am sleepy. Shion, you are hugging something nice…” (Rona)

As she stared fixedly, Renya became flustered again.

“No. Being seen getting up like this… it will cause another weird mood.” (Renya)

“Well… Shion is unhappy unless she has something to cuddle with. Although recently I didn’t see this behavior very often… In the first place, even if you getting up would cause a strange mood… Renya-san, you can’t take out your hands from there, right?” (Rona)

That is certainly true.

Even though it was said that just moving within the sleeping bag was already difficult as well, Renya was in a state of being embraced by Shion with both arms. As both of Renya’s arms were tightly restrained, he wasn’t able to move.

Tentatively, since he held a knife in his arms, he should be somehow capable of cutting the bag in the end, but on top of the sleeping bag not being such a cheap item, it wasn’t a state of emergency where his life was directly in danger either. Thus it would be wasteful to completely destroy it by cutting it apart.

“Rona, I am unable to move like this. Can you tear off Shion one way or another …” (Renya)

“Ah, you seem to be a good hug pillow, no…?” (Rona)

“He?” (Renya)

Not understanding what she was talking about, Renya responded with an idiotic voice. Sweetly smiling with her usual smile, Rona intruded the inside of the tent and sidled up to him.

He felt that her appearance was somehow like lioness moving towards its prey. Trying to retreat, Renya couldn’t wriggle away after all.

“I am… extremely sleepy, you know?” (Rona)

“Just wait a second, what about standing guard?” (Renya)

“In such safe place, there aren’t any monsters or humans that would attack us.” (Rona)

On the opposite side of where Shion was clinging, Rona threw herself down. In order to do the same thing as Shion, she tightly squeezed Renya’s sleeping bag.

“Well then, good night…” (Rona)

“Wait, stop it! This is definitely strange!” (Renya)

Because he was squeezed from both sides, Renya wasn’t even able to wriggle anymore.

While rubbing her face against him with grinding sounds, just like Shion, Rona said,

“Rather than Shion’s light pressing, the way of my pressing is heavy. I guess Renya feels good as well…” (Rona)

Suddenly pressing upon me like that in one go, is the volume of fabric of a different kind? Even her clearly detectable softness is being transmitted through the cloth of the sleeping bag.

Unintentionally thinking that it would be also fine to stay like this, Renya shook his head in a hurry.

“Well, a problem of that sort… the heck, what kind of difference does it make whether it is heavy or light?!” (Renya)

Somehow Shion’s expression became sullen and she filled her arms with strength.

Even under normal circumstances it was a tight restraint, but right after tightening even more, Renya got the feeling as if he had somehow heard an improper sound from the area of his chest or arms.

As Rona was conversely in some way elated with her success, Shion made sure to entangle him with her arms in such a way that Renya’s body was giving off a grinding sound while being constricted with force.

On one side there was a swordsman, even though she’s an apprentice.

On the other side there was an apparently official knight, although self-proclaimed.

Those fellows had doubtlessly trained that arm strength well in order to wield their weapons. Renya’s body screamed in pain from having something like that on both sides.

“O-ouch!? It’s breaking!? I will be torn to pieces!? You two, get away from me!” (Renya)

“n~…ya~…” (Shion)

“Didn’t I tell you? I am sleepy…” (Rona)

Although Renya didn’t catch up with comprehending the feeling of the situation, apart from the circumstances of the two, an alarm began to resound within Renya’s head.

This situation is odd.

It is not about two woman embracing me.

It is about the matter of Rona, who should be vigilant in standing guard, complaining about sleepiness, even more so without resisting it.

She introduced herself as a knight one way or another. Thus she should have received some kind of training. And yet it is difficult to believe is being this negligent towards her guard duty and succumbing to drowsiness as she was certainly chosen as Shion’s guard by some unknown person with an apparently reasonably high rank from somewhere.

However, the reality was that Rona was embracing Renya’s sleeping bag starting to carelessly drift asleep.

This would normally be impossible.

As Renya was by now certain that he had to destroy the sleeping bag and forcibly regain the freedom of his body, when he put his strength into the hand holding the knife, it came.

Renya was violently assaulted by sleepiness.

Impossible! he shouted in a corner of his mind.

Certainly, my sleeping time was irregular, but I got a reasonable amount of sleep.

Furthermore, waking up upon seeing this kind of situation, something like drowsiness was completely blown away. And still, why is it? I remember it being difficult for drowsiness to take effect.

“Artificial… or the attack of something inhuman?” (Renya)

If I were to surrender to the sleep assault, I fear it to be likely that I won’t wake up for a long time. That’s my premonition.

If that’s the case, it will end up in the three of us being in a state of being completely defenselessness.

Staying like this can be thought of as being incredibly dangerous for our lives.

“Shall we strike to kill those guys in one go?”

Such a voice reached Renya’s ears as he was frantically fighting the drowsiness.

Towards the word ‘kill’ the core of his mind grew cold and he realized that the sleepiness drew back.

“Isn’t now the only chance to do that shit?”

“You should stop it. Though we chose the method of attacking with magic, there are times when it will be completely dissolved by sounds or pain. It’s not so bad if it’s just a single person, but in case it is several people huddled together, it is better to not make a move.”

“Tsk. It’s can’t be helped. Maa, I just have to do with seeing the stupid looks on their faces afterwards.”

The presences of the people outside the tent moved.

The voices sounded familiar.

It was the rough voice of that guy called Zest.

Stopping his action, as it was the voice of a young woman, I think it was most likely their magician , Renya guessed.

It somehow seems that they used magic to cause the living things in the entire area to fall asleep.

However, why do such a thing? Although Renya considered it, he reached no solution.

While he was in that state, for some reason it seemed like various presences were moving outside. Becoming distant after a short while, the sounds vanished.

What the hell has happened outside?

As he didn’t get any answer to his question, while racking his brain the extent of danger by being pressed hard from both sides gradually increased. *Will I ever be able to leave this tent safely?* Renya became worried.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 25 – It seems to be stealing a march

“They got us.” (Hartz)

Hartz said in absolute disgust.

The campsite put up by Zest’s group was completely removed last night. They did it without leaving any trace at all.

In contrast to Hartz, Az’s facial expression was similar to the time when they met him at the “Silver Cup.” Without apparently showing almost anything in his expression, on the surface it was extremely calm.

Speaking of Renya, he somehow had ~ you could call it a difficult facial expression. Scratching the vicinity of his left cheek with his index finger there were huge finger prints.

That cheek had become red without being able to distinguish whether it was due to stretching it or striking it.

Although Hartz was quite bothered about what had happened, as Renya’s party member Shion was at a place slightly apart from him with a bright red face and her body clad in armor while you could see her sitting in seiza, he somehow sensed that it was something he shouldn’t ask about.

After one way or another resisting that intense sleepiness.

Even though Renya had desperately trying to wake Shion and Rona up, was it due to the strength of the magic put in effect? Or was it due to both’s difficulty in waking up? No matter the degree of shaking and struggling, there was absolutely no indication of them waking.

The measure he chose was Renya’s final measure. Changing position he attacked the side of beneath the arm of Shion who was in a state of embracing. He tickled Shion’s body or rather he was groping it.

Although Renya had a feeling that the place he touched was her arm right next to her breast, in reality, Shion eerily asked where he was rubbing.

At any rate, he somehow sensed rubbing something soft.

As he touched that improper place, Shion, who was still half asleep, woke up while grumbling and confirmed the situation raising her head.

When she came to in that body posture, somehow her body was apparently groped by something. Her face began to dye red as her consciousness became clear.

At the time she tightly grasped her fist, Renya thought, *it can be said that this incident is my fault*.

As he didn’t expect it to be hateful, he understood that he had to likewise resign himself to fate and receive the necessary one punch in this situation.

While thinking it was fine unless he had his bones or teeth broken, Renya watched the brandished fist. In the instant that fist was swung downward, he was pulled tightly by the side of Rona who was embracing him. Next he felt a light impact on his cheek and he ended up rolling until the end of the tent with a *goro goro* while Rona was clinging to him without change.

Due to the blow missing the course of impact on the body, he was able to escape from most of the damage.

Noticing Shion's attack, Rona pulled Renya to herself by a hair's breadth apparently doing so in order to lower the damage received by Renya.

If she was aware of the situation to such an extent, it would have been nice if she had stopped Shion. Even so he wasn't able to consider it like that and it was indispensable for him to be thankful that it ended with him not directly receiving Shion's attack.

Rather, thanks to rolling over while embracing him, since he felt various things touching him here and there with a *munyu munyu*, Renya decided to thank her from the bottom of his heart afterwards.

Apart from this.

At last crawling out from the sleeping bag and after putting his outfit in order, he left the tent and saw that the other parties had suffered the magic attack as well. Some people were lying spread-eagled on the ground while sleeping and some were leaning against the tents while loudly snoring. Was there any sleepiness still remaining? Amongst those visible coming out from within their tents while shaking their heads, only Zest's group's tent had completely vanished.

"He stole a march on us?" (Renya)

"That's likely." (Hartz)

Towards Renya's short question, Hartz gave a short reply.

"It is a young dungeon having a likewise shallow stratum and it isn't very big either. Usually the appearing monsters are weak as well. Even so, you have to pay attention and generally the capture is done by several parties …" (Hartz)

"So they're thinking that it will be enough if only they went, huh?" (Renya)

"Probably that's it. Since I think there are no great treasures prepared by the dungeon yet either, their goal here should just be the dungeon core. As I guess that the guarding monsters are weak as well, I think they considered ensnaring the other parties as it is first come, first served." (Hartz)

"Humph" (Renya)

As Renya replied half-heartedly, Hartz face became 'at least talk to me.'

Even though they beat them to the punch, there wasn't any kind of impatience visible on Renya's face either.

Worried about that, Hartz decided to try asking.

"You are quite composed. Although it also depends on the size of the dungeon core, you can still expect it to have the value of a few dozen gold coins since this is a young dungeon. I wonder whether you don't think that it is regrettable?" (Hartz)

"Not particularly." (Renya)

Renya's answer was something that came out quite easily.

That plainness became the proof that Renya really thought like that.

"If we let only those guys capture the dungeon, it will turn out to be a conversation about helping them when they get into trouble. Although it is certainly regrettable about the large sum of money by selling the core off, we will still

obtain the reward for completing the request even if we do nothing at all.” (Renya)

“I agree.” (Az)

It was Az who indicated his approval of Renya’s words.

Hartz looked into his direction with a face full of surprise. ‘I wonder what you are surprised about to make such strange face’ Az looked back at Hartz with such an expression.

“We receive money without having to work for it. It is almost enough that it would also be fine to write up a few lines of gratitude to that brown-dyed hair.” (Renya)

“That’s a good idea. I will write up something until they come out, I think.” (Az)

“You guys …” (Hartz)

Hartz was astonished by the carefree conversation between Renya and Az.

No matter how much you say that they are youngsters, where the capturing of a dungeon is concerned, that party will gain a lot of prestige. It would become a reward that is many-fold more worthwhile than the retaining fee of the dungeon core.

Despite them snatching this from in front of their eyes, those two didn’t care about it at all. Hartz was wondering whether his own thinking had become outdated and was partly seriously worried about that.

But since being worried about it on top of being impatient wouldn’t give him an answer either way, Hartz said following in order to change the mood,

“What will you do if those guys fail?” (Hartz)

“”It would be fine to just redo the capturing, don’t you think so?”” (Renya & Az)

They returned a harmonized reply.

Is that how it is? thought Hartz, but he was surprised by Renya’s continuation.

“Even if they fail, since there are just small fry close to the outriders to finish off, the only reason for those guys to fail will be themselves. Thus they will be fine as long as they pay attention.” (Renya)

“I see. That is a very efficient opinion. Renya, was it? I think I can only approve of your rational way of thinking as magnificent.” (Az)

“No no, you two! Won’t you save them in such a case?” (Hartz)

Renya and Az had a mutual understanding in ridiculous ways. As Hartz interjected in a hurry, both stayed silent at the same time and made a face as if saying “What is this guy talking about?”

Hartz reflected whether he said anything incorrect himself. In a disgusted voice Renya said,

“Arbitrarily advancing by themselves and arbitrarily failing by themselves, can you excuse me from wiping those guy’s asses?” (Renya)

Towards Renya’s negative answer, Az was nodding with a “Yes. Yes.”

“Good grief. Since they went ahead on their own accord, I think they should bravely get themselves annihilated instead of doing something like behaving as if they want to at least run home.” (Az)

“It would be best if they could shine by putting in a few sword strikes before they use up all their energy.” (Renya)

“That’s true, if they manage at least this much, it will be even fine to place a single flower in front of their graves as well.” (Az)

“In front of their grave… do you plan to recover their corpses? I don’t want to do such troublesome thing!” (Renya)

“I guess that’s right as well… There won’t be any problem if they vanish together with the dungeon at the time it disappears.” (Az) (ED: My frustrations at Renya’s inaction last chapter have been absolved. This is golden.)

“You twooo …” (Hartz)

In response to the more and more excessive remarks, Hartz went beyond being shocked and nothing more than a sigh came out.

Az and Renya without showing any sign to pay attention to this returned to each others party and started to give instructions to prepare breakfast since there was no need to rush.

“Is that alright?” (Rona)

Because Shion was still sitting in seiza and blushing, Rona asked Renya in a whisper.

Renya calmly nodded to her question.

“It can be said that this dungeon isn’t overly vast. We will wait until just past noon. Won’t we somehow know the result of whether they succeeded or failed by then?” (Renya)

Rather than such a matter, it was breakfast time. Renya skilfully cracked the firewood into small pieces. After igniting it, he took out a cookware resembling a fry pan from within his [Inventory] and placed it atop the fire.

Putting in a small quantity of oil, he spread out two pieces of bacon which were thickly cut.

After waiting for it to give off a good fragrance from roasting it, he cracked an egg, although he was certain it was an egg he didn’t know what has given birth to it, and spilled the contents on top of the pseudo-fry pan.

Renya believed that a bacon was delicious when it was roasted until it became crispy. He transferred the bacon and egg onto a plate after properly heating them up.

Renya was part of the sunny-side-up fried eggs with soy sauce faction. He still hadn’t discovered something corresponding to it *(T/N: soy sauce)* from his former world in this world though.

To make up for it, as there was no soy sauce, since he found fish sauce made out of fish being pickled in salt, he quickly gambled on using that and the dish was finished.

Accompanying this with salad and bread, he judged this to be adequate as breakfast. Unfortunately the bread commonly circulated in this world was difficult to eat as it was far too hard.

Since it couldn’t be avoided, as he happened upon a small quantity of a high-class item in this world, he heated up salted milk, which he had received from the inn, and stirred the small amount as soup. Then he put in what appeared to be small pieces of broken bread in there. He unraveled a grain vegetable looking like corn, crushed it and put it into the soup.

As it looked like he made pseudo-corn soup garnished with croutons by intuition, after sampling it and judging it to be a palatable meal with a “Maa maa” *(T/N: So so)*, the dish was finished.

Serving that on a plate, the breakfast was complete after adding vegetable salad to it.

He used salt, pepper and vinegar to make a simple dressing for the salad.

“The breakfast is also extravagant.” (Shion)

Having finally returned to reality, Shion leaked out her impressions while gazing at the top of the dining table.

Although you shouldn’t go to the extent of calling something like this extravagant , were Renya’s thoughts.

If I completed it more skilfully with the things I managed to acquire at the inn, it would have become an even more stylish meal, he thought, although that was an issue that couldn’t be settled with only this much time.

“I guess it is something good if the meal is something delicious? Come on now, before it gets cold…” (Renya)

Starting to say that it was fine to eat, immediately next to Renya, he noticed Az’s party somehow staring this way as they once again held jerky and bread as meal without a change for the better since last night.

Continuing from yesterday’s dinner, they looked at his morning breakfast in envy. They were looking at Renya’s group’s dining table forgetting about the meal they held.

“Is it fine to serve it to our neighbors as well?” (Renya)

“If Renya is fine with that, I think it’s alright to do so, no?” (Shion)

“That’s right, I won’t oppose it.” (Rona)

After gaining the acknowledgement of both, Renya called out to Az.

“Don’t look this way with such wistful eyes. If you want it, we will split it with you. What will you do?” (Renya)

“N… is that so? Given that it has a nice odor, it seems to be delicious. Although I would be glad if I could receive a share of it, will it be fine for all of us here to get some?” (Az)

“No one will be left out. I think it would be pitiful to not let those guys join in. Even if it’s that ossan party… eh? Where did the ossan party go?” (Renya)

Surveying the surroundings, Hartz’ party couldn’t be found anywhere.

“If it’s about Hartz’ group, they entered the dungeon to chase after Zest.” (Az)

Is it because he is very caring? Or because he is greedy about money?

Although he hesitated to discuss the conclusion, apparently it could be taken as a choice by Hartz’ group to look into accompanying Zest’s party.

“That guy is being quite diligent once again. Ah, can you return the borrowed tableware? Also, divide the soup and please kill the jerk who made the bread you are holding. There is no plan for a second serving.” (Renya)

“We are already grateful for just being able to eat the soup.” (Az)

He made a somewhat larger quantity of soup thinking it might be possible to get a second serving, but since it wasn’t a sufficient quantity by any means after splitting it with 5 adults, he increased the quantity by topping it off with ingredients.

Because he ended up exhausting the soup he had received from the inn, he couldn’t deny feeling that he had

become immature in the end. After Az's party members put in their crumbled bread and shredded jerky, Renya's soup received a mostly favorable evaluation.

Even if it is somewhat simple after all, what is there to disregard about a tasty, warm meal if you put priority on suitability, Renya reconfirmed.

"For lunch I will boil some pasta. It will be perfect as we have tomato-like vegetables, cheese, pepper, meat and vegetables in stock." (Renya)

Of course he had finished sampling all ingredients.

Although they met at the "Silver Cup", given that the meet up was finished a lot faster than he planned, you could certainly say that these were the fruits of going around the market in the available time he had.

After Rona came back with supplies of jerky and bread generally used for 4 days, he complained with a staggering force and as a result he even accompanied her.

"Tell me, from where will you procure water for this?" (Az)

It wasn't possible to do something like boiling pasta with a meager amount of water.

Thus, a regular adventurer would never carry such amount of water in the midst of working just for the sake of cooking.

"I possess a void storage. If it's water, I put in heaps of barrels in there." (Renya)

Incidentally, he even had a pot with a deep bottom for boiling the pasta. Renya had bought it precisely for that and brought it along.

"…I want to make a deal. I want you to join the negotiation." (Az)

Relatively serious, Az began to talk with a quite pressing facial expression. Renya laughed while smiling.

"I guess that's fine. I am a relatively fair man if it comes to something like making a deal. Well then, what are you offering?" (Renya)

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 26 – It seems to be lunch without scrambling

Eventually the negotiations ended smoothly.

Az offered something in exchange for Renya's lunch.

"It is an instruction for elementary magic of the attack system, how about that? It is something that will fetch a reasonable price. I get the feeling from you that your role is that of a swordsman, so you haven't learned offensive magic yet, right?" (Az) *(ED: Az is offering to zap a spell into Renya's brain, just like with the Light spell beforehand.)*

Slowly drawing out the conditions in small steps, it was similar to gaining advantageous terms by delaying the negotiations. Az seemed to be uninterested in concluding the bargaining. Just in that moment he offered the best thing he himself could give.

Even Renya who was offered this was slightly surprised.

Going by the price list he was shown at Khalil's shop, if it was something with a reasonable price, Az had offered something having a value of 50 silver coins to start with.

If we were to talk about his previous world it would be equivalent to 50,000 yen.

If we assume the lunch price for the portions of 5 adult men, it could be commented to be quite extraordinary without a doubt.

"Quite lavish, no?" (Renya)

"I am not unwilling to give you this. All the more if it will allow us to eat something delicious in this place. My party members have a lot of hardships." (Az)

Az said while looking at the members who diligently devoted themselves to their role of being his shield.

Be that as it may, they take the role of a meat shield for the sake of gaining time for the spell casting and it seemed that they received genuine gratitude for their protection from him. Although his unsociable facial expression didn't change, his voice was filled with his real feelings.

Somehow, with only that, Renya's feeling changed to it even being fine to just share lunch with them rather than proposing a deal. The current situation with the offered conditions by the other party would usually end up being called too good. Renya had a hunch that there was something different from what was promised.

"It's just that there are bad people in the city who make their living by excessively overcharging for these kinds of services. I will entrust one to you." (Az) (ED: Az is saying it's not as pricey a service as Renya believes, mainly because Renya fell prey to being overcharged before.)

"I understand. With this the transaction is concluded." (Renya)

Even if I splurge a bit on the lunch, I won't be stricken by a curse , Renya was thinking.

"Well then, although I want to instruct you right away… what would be fine?" (Az)

“A high-powered blow? …Something that obstructs the actions of an opponent by hitting them would be fine, but…” (Renya)

While recalling the matter about having a hopelessly low quantity of mana from Khalil’s shop, Renya was pondering.

Although he tried to improve his magic ability by repeatedly practicing the [Light] magic for a splendid number of times since then, he didn’t really feel as if it was something he could do. He didn’t believe that he had improved very much.

As Renya’s doctrine was to increase the number of moves rather than their firepower, when it came down to defeating numbers, he had no other options but to connect a sure-hit physical attack or bet on the weight of the blow.

Telling these matters to Az, after a while of considering, Az said,

“I guess for high firepower it would be . In case of obstructing their actions, it would be, but if you don’t aim for damage infliction, I think would also be fine. You also have to have something like aptitude for it.” (Az)

“I checked the aptitude at the magician Khalil’s shop. I was told it is wind.” (Renya)

“That fellow? If it was her examining you, there is no doubt about it, I guess… but wind, huh? If it is wind, then either or would be good.” (Az)

For cutting up things with wind, , and for dulling the movement by coiling wind around the feet, , Az explained.

As the type of went along with Renya’s style of magic, Az words hinted towards him not being very suited for .

“On the point of firepower it is far inferior to . If it is our vanguard members, even if they don’t apply any considerable defensive magic, they will easily defend against it.” (Az)

“Fumu… this is a point to be worried about…” (Renya)

After all, it is elementary magic, was something that Renya understood.

Although one might say the firepower was high, apparently with its power the most that could do in face of heavy armor was to the extent of causing petty scalding.

“My recommendation is after all. The user-friendliness is good and it has a wide usability so you don’t need to be very cautious about use against potential opponents.” (Az)

“The opinion of an expert is valuable. I will request this then, huh?” (Renya)

Once Renya decided, Az took out a scrap of paper from his luggage similar to the one he had seen in Khalil’s shop and affixed it to Renya’s forehead.

“Bestow, ” (Az)

The paper affixed to his forehead vanished and since a similar message streamed in as he had seen before, Renya accepted the selection. *(T/N: The information terminal messages he means)*

“Spell, according to my power, shoot a Fire Ball.”

“Even if I continue to use this, how is it related to improving my magic capacity, I wonder?” (Renya)

“Ah, did you also hear about this method? If you practice magic, your magic capacity will naturally increase. However, the accepted theory says that it won’t increase much further than what you possess by nature, just that…” (Az)

Az said while apparently having difficulty in speaking about it.

It seemed to be something to take into consideration when Renya was told that he was lacking magic capacity at Khalil's shop.

"It can't be helped. Even if you can only use it as a one off spell it will increase your options in combat. Because of that, there is no reason to not use it." (Az)

"By the way, what is it?" (Renya)

He asked as Az had taken an interest in something.

"About how many times have you become able to use the spell?" (Az)

"Let's see…" (Renya)

Since he hadn't even done something like counting, Renya tried to roughly calculate it mentally.

As it was something along the lines of simultaneously activating 16 instances with the most recent casting macro, how many times can it be implemented until it stops? He didn't really pay any attention to that.

"Since it didn't cause the mana to be exhausted with 16 parallel instances activated within an hour of 60 activations…" (Renya)

"…What was that?" (Az)

"At the least I can use as many as 960 castings, I think?" (Renya)

Hearing Renya talking smoothly about the number, Az's facial expression became stiff.

Even though Az's face was bluntly expressionless from the start, you could see it turn into even more of a carved statue than usual. Renya pondered whether he had said something odd and suddenly hit on an answer.

It is about me having been told that I have practically no magic capacity.

It isn't useful even if I practice to such an extent? That's quite shocking, Renya judged.

"I guess it can't be helped since I have no talent…" (Renya)

"If only I had the aptitude." Renya sighed due to those profane words. Cutting into that, those words were covered by Az.

"No talent, you say? You, what the hell are you saying about yourself? Don't you understand?" (Az)

"I do understand. Most likely I am not suited for it." (Renya)

"Don't say such stupid things. Listen! What I am about to tell you now, don't talk about it, okay?" (Az)

Suddenly bringing his face close, he lowered the volume of his voice. While also thinking that he wasn't really happy about a man drawing near, Renya nodded due to being pressured by the seriousness of Az's facial expression.

"First off, did you say parallel activation?" (Az)

"Eh, ah, un" (Renya)

"Although I am not even able to use magic with parallel activation… the limit is two." (Az)

“Un?” (Renya)

An expert couldn’t use more than two magic spells simultaneously.

If that is the truth, then what the hell does it mean for me to be even able to activate 16 at the same time?

“But in addition to the number of activations, if I were to keep up using without a break, I would be able to activate it around 100 times before using up the majority of my mana.” (Az)

Looking at the Az’s face in front of him, Renya was staring.

He honestly couldn’t see a glimpse of a lie being told in that face.

Although he didn’t seem to be telling lies, the contents of his words were still unbelievable.

As my magic capacity was evaluated to be lacking by Khalil, there is no way for it to be close to 10 times that of an expert like Az.

As he considered it to be impossible, Renya didn’t actually lie about it himself either. Furthermore, even this close to 10 times the numbers, still left him with a margin on the numbers of activation.

“What is this about…?” (Renya)

Due to still seeing Renya murmuring without comprehension, Az shook his head.

“It’s not like I understand it. Although you might usually suspect an error in the measurement, I don’t think that is possible if it was done by Khalil.” (Az)

The practice was an incredible success, going by such reasoning is likewise unlikely.

Just a moment ago I was told by Az that it wasn’t possible to increase it by practicing to such an extent either.

If I were to have an idea, I guess it couldn’t be helped to think that it was one of those many skills I received before coming to this world, Renya recalled.

As that little girl said, the abilities will be sure to grow in proportion to being forged by training.

Those are the fruits of training ~ while separating his face from Az, Renya could agree to such view. It wasn’t due to understanding it though.

“Although I don’t know why it has become like this, if we assume this to be a fact, you can expect it to cause nothing but trouble if the surroundings became aware of this.” (Az)

“Isn’t it already too late since you know about it?” (Renya)

“In my case… I don’t have the hobby of spreading rumors about someone else’s circumstances.” (Az)

Despite having an unsociable face, only one side of Az’s mouth moved slightly.

Somehow Renya realized that he was kind of smiling.

“I am thankful for that. I am grateful for the accompanying warning.” (Renya)

“There is no need for thanks… although I would be happy if you give me a slightly larger portion of pasta for lunch.” (Az)

“I will see to that.” (Renya)

Although he didn’t prepare such an extent of pasta in his [Inventory] due to Renya arranging the amount of pasta roughly referencing upon himself, since he knew that Shion and Rona wouldn’t eat more than he had assessed, he guessed there wouldn’t be any difficulty to something like giving Az’s party a larger portion. With acknowledging his words, Renya conveyed this meaning to Az.

◆◇◆◇◆

“I’m bored…” (Shion)

Shion murmured lazily.

As the small information exchange due to the deal was completely finished, there was nothing to do afterwards.

Since neither Renya nor Az had any intention to dive into the dungeon until they finished eating lunch, naturally as there was nothing to do for the other members either it resulted in not being able to do anything but spending time on something like standby.

After Az finished the exchange with Renya, he reported the established deal to his party members. Retrieving a carpet from within his luggage, he sat down on it with a thump on top of holding some volume of a book and began to read silently.

Such a side of Az was something usual for the other members, huh? Without even particularly minding about something like this, each of them scattered to some suitable place around there in order to laze around and bask in the sun or to take a nap.

Speaking of Renya, since he exhausted the soup he had received from the inn yesterday, he began his work by placing the pot with the deep bottom on top of the cooking stove and throwing in vegetables and meat in there as it would take some time to boil them well while cooking on a low flame.

Although Renya intended to offer two types of sauces for lunch, one made out of cheese and milk and the other from the tomato-like vegetable, it was unthinkable for it to become satisfactory without something serving as a base for that.

Given that this didn’t mean that there would be a large quantity necessary, he carefully and slowly cooked together the reasonable amount of ingredients. Occasionally Renya added water to finish concentrating it.

As the flavor of the finished concentrated base became strong, it ended up becoming bland, or rather the flavor was rough.

The important difference could be determined by how well the good flavor of the vegetables and meat could be extracted. While persuading himself of that, Renya kept standing watch on the soup. *(T/N: Is this a frigging cooking novel !! ><;;)*

Rona, going with the flow, ended up taking this state of affairs completely for granted and retired into the tent because she wanted to sleep until she got called by his voice.

Although Shion watched Renya working for a while, she soon enough got tired of it in the end.

“I guess it’s inevitable, huh? I have ended up being in charge of lunch recently. Preparations are important for cooking.” (Renya)

“We… pretty much came here to capture the dungeon, right?” (Shion)

Then why is there a mood as if we were going for a picnic? Shion couldn't help but feel such doubts.

Meanwhile Renya was scooping out the scum emerging on the surface of the pot.

"It isn't a good thing to be tense when it is unnecessary, right?" (Renya)

"Aren't we slacking off too much?" (Shion)

"Well, what do you think?" (Renya)

Renya thought that they might be a bit too carefree as well.

Nevertheless he had no intention on cutting corners in his duty of preparing lunch at all.

He peeled the skin of the tomato-like vegetables after boiling them. Combining it with the remade soup by putting it into the pot, this would transform into a paste. Furthermore he threw in similar pastes transformed from other vegetables in. They added an aroma of herbs and slightly increased the concentration by increasing the viscosity.

It was completed by seasoning it with a small quantity of salt and small pieces of meat.

As for the cheese and milk sauce, he mixed the soup with the milk and seasoned that with salt n' pepper. He heated it until it became thick by constantly tossing in pieces of cheese in there.

Finely cut small pieces of vegetables were put in next.

Since he obtained something of the sort of noodles as pasta, he put those into the deep pot alongside plenty of water. He took out the pasta after waiting for it to boil with irregular movements.

Although it was frequently said that you left it inside until the core part became one long hair before pulling it out, since Renya wasn't fond of such a method, he boiled them properly and then took them out.

Soon after putting the two types of sauces into their respective deep dishes, he placed the boiled pasta on a large plate and completed it by arranging individual plates.

All that was left was for each to pick up some pasta, pour it with their preferred sauce and eat it.

Because it was also a portion of pasta for 8 people all together, it was unthinkable to finish cooking it in one go.

While watching the pasta placed on the plate disappearing, he thought *Maa, it's fine since they are able to eat something delicious, no?* Renya was single-mindedly boiling pasta.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 27 – It seems to be a consultation while cleaning

In the end the prepared pasta stock became less than half.

You could say this was something that couldn't be helped.

Since originally they prepared it to be used by a party of one man and two women, namely Renya, Shion and Rona, the quantity they took along was to satisfy just them.

Although Renya had also taken along a surplus considering some unforeseen situations occuring, adding 5 grown man to this was still harsh.

Rather, with adding this many, it is good that there is still close to half remaining , he thought bitterly.

Renya had a high opinion of himself.

I want to praise my former self, while thinking such trivial things, he used his hands to wash the tableware devoting himself completely to the task.

Without having to mention the dishes, as hygenic conditions couldn't be really mentioned to be well in this world, he couldn't leave the pot and kitchen knife without properly washing and suitably drying them either. Doing so could cause something like somache ache and in the end the ability to enjoy the meal would be lost.

The used tools were washed sufficiently and dried with a cleansed cloth.

This is already a matter of my previous life's common sense concerning someone who touches foodstuff , Renya judged.

While wiping the tableware with a clean cloth, he surveyed the surroundings. He could see them fully enjoying the early afternoon with full stomachs sitting directly on the ground with the only difference being the variation of spread out carpets they were using.

It was a really peaceful view.

Peaceful, even though it couldn't be helped to just call it peaceful, it was still a fact.

While helping to wipe the tableware next to Renya, Az seemed to likewise feel the same. He started a conversation with a low voice to the extent that it couldn't be heard by the surroundings.

"They haven't… returned." (Az)

That voice didn't contain anything like the feeling of anxiety.

It was no more than an indifferent way of confirming the truth.

"Ah, that's true." (Renya)

Without resting his hands on the task, Renya agreed.

A young dungeon didn't have a size to such an extent. Although he had heard that, Renya didn't concretely know

just how big the size actually was.

But, with the ranks of the parties as it is, secluding themselves for a few hours without emerging in a dungeon said to not have such an extensive size, is that something ordinary?

Renya wasn't able to judge it.

In the first place, since there wasn't such things like dungeons in his previous world, it was just reasonable for him to not have the knowledge related to this.

How could it be fine to judge that without having the knowledge?'

If it is something that you don't have, it will be a good idea to borrow it from someone who has it.

A pretty simple matter.

"Az, can you be my teacher? Please, there is something I absolutely want to ask…" (Renya)

Although it certainly seemed as if he wanted to ask something, it could also really be called something close to getting free information about this place.

As Renya tried to act modestly as there was the possibility of him thinking like that for sure, Az's reaction was something completely unexpected.

"Stop it, it feels sickening. What will you do if I drop a plate due to that? Although it might be particularly good since it is yours." (Az)

While retreating half a step, Az raised his voice in protest expressing a truly unpleasant look on his expressionless face.

Tentatively Renya had intended to ask earnestly, but he also felt a slight satisfaction seeing such unusually reluctant facial expression on Az.

If the plate ended up being broken because of that, I wouldn't be able to bear it.

"What do you want to know? I will listen to you normally." (Az)

"Is it normal for 2 parties to not come out from diving into a small dungeon after a few hours?" (Renya)

Since he didn't know when Hartz' party entered the dungeon, he couldn't say anything concerning that. But if the discussion was restricted to only talking about Zest's party, they had dived into the dungeon for around 5 hours without any news.

Speaking of Renya's quesion, as Az answered right away, did he think about the same question?

"Although I can't say it's normal, I can't say it's abnormal either." (Az)

Finishing wiping the plate dry, after giving it to Renya, he picked up another plate that was still wet. While beginning the task of wiping it once more, Az replied.

As he was quite skilled with something like that, Renya could comply with Az being usually in charge of cleaning and cooking for the sake of the four on guard duty. His performance was quite agreeable.

"Though it may be a small dungeon, it isn't something unusual to spend time in it. Even if it doesn't mean that it is very strong, you can still randomly encounter such things like a tough guardian." (Az)

“I see?” (Renya)

“However, because we have manpower here, in such a situation it would also be normal to think of doing something like calling for reinforcements while some people hold it off.” (Az)

No matter how solid the defense power it possessed, assuming you beat it up with a large number of people, it would be an obvious matter of shortening the time needed to defeat it.

Even if they were determined to do it by themselves they were still undermanned. If they had reinforcements close by, they wouldn’t have a choice but to call them over.

“I see.” (Renya)

“Although that brown-dyed hair baka, who doesn’t happen to have any particularly noticeable intelligence, will very likely end up shedding tears, Hartz doesn’t seem to have realized that.” (Az)

“Inde… oi, don’t use such spiteful words.” (Renya)

Az ignored Renya, who had inserted a tsukkomi in his agreement, without even blinking.

“In conclusion, I think something has happened.” (Az)

Az held out the plate he finished to dry to Renya.

After taking it and confirming that the water had been properly wiped away, Renya tossed it into his [Inventory].

“I am deliberating what might have happened.” (Az)

“Both parties that went ahead have an evaluation to be higher ranked than us.” (Renya)

“Though I don’t think I can tell how far we can go, they will die without exception if we continue our picnic here without doing anything.” (Az)

“I dare say as for ingredients, we still have some leeway.” (Renya)

Renya spent almost all of the prior preparation time on securing ingredients.

Although the amount of money he possessed including the amount for selling of the magic cores was down to merely 3 gold coins, the reason for that happening could be attributed almost entirely to him buying ingredients, tools and materials.

The reason for the only meager remaining amount was it vanishing into such things such as ropes, tinderboxes and lanterns which he gave Rona, who was in charge of buying them.

“Our side as well. Even though I say that, we have nothing but hard bread and jerky stocked.” (Az)

Even though it was a talk about something having no taste, it was still something called essential for normal adventurers.

Due to equipment and tools being important, it could be said to be the obvious choice, even going as far as calling it rational, to prepare food that wasn’t bulky and heavy. Originally it would be strange to put importance on taste and bring something that didn’t last long on top of being unwieldy like fresh vegetables and milk like Renya did in this situation.

“And isn’t this a slightly bitter picnic, I wonder? Though it is also fine to receive and include our ingredients, there has to be an end to it.” (Az)

“Even though I want to do something to take care of it if possible, I have nothing to pay with anymore either. In other words.” (Renya)

“”There is nothing left but passing the bounds and get started on acting.”” (Az & Renya)

Sending out the same phrase at the same time, Renya and Az looked at each other faces.

Staring at each other for a short while, they averted their gazes from each other with the same timing again.

“I see, I see, I don’t dislike such things either.” (Renya)

“Although I thought you might be of the same type as that brown-haired baka, why, just why is it something good to be next to a fellow who properly understands matters?” (Az)

“Why are you are you thinking I am the same type like that?” (Renya)

“Though you have nothing but women in your party?” (Az)

Declaring it as if it was only natural, Renya smiled bitterly.

Even though I think there are various problems in a party made out of only women, if you also enter a single man in there, there will be some problems left after all, he thought.

While that may be true, with Rona strongly opposing the idea of adding other male members, it seems that it will be very difficult to realize this.

“We should decide on the objective of action. It isn’t my hobby to blindly charge into something.” (Az)

“Internal investigation and confirming the preceding parties. The conditions for retreating are…” (Renya)

“In case of discovering something considered to make the well being of the preceding parties hopeless or encountering the cause of that one way or another, it is.” (Az)

At the same time Az finished saying this, he handed the last plate that had to be wiped to Renya.

Renya checked the state of that plate.

The water was completely wiped off.

He admired the truly good work.

“Well then, maa, let’s get started, huh? The higher ranking parties have been completely annihilated ~ saying that, would it be sufficient reason to abandon the request?” (Renya)

Without moving his mouth, as if telling Renya that it was fine in that case, Az showed a nod.

“Ah, somehow saying this is similar to giving an order to stop it.” (Az)

“Well, then it is decided. Shion! Rona!” (Renya)

Having their names called out and having the cloth spread on the ground under them pulled away, the two, who had been sleeping with a *suya suya*, quickly got up halfway.

As if wanting to be praised for their quickness in reacting like this, their ears stood on end with a twitch due to having their names called in an appearance that could be described as cats. It was such a scene.

“Get prepared, we are entering the dungeon.” (Renya)

“You guys, start preparing as well. We will enter the dungeon forming a common front with Renya’s group’s party.” (Az)

With Az’s issued instruction, his members started to get armed.

The equipment of them, who were entrusted to serve as shields, were plate mail and a massive shield.

Although it was extremely heavy equipment, what caught Renya’s eyes was their weapons.

All of them wore a short small sword that was easy to swing in one’s hands.

“Are you surprised?” (Az)

Did he notice the item which stopped Renya’s eyes? Az asked a question.

Renya, who had checked those small swords for a while, shook his head left and right before long.

“You have considered it well.” (Renya)

He understood that far from causing a fatal injury it would be difficult even give damage by cutting with a long sword against a sturdily made plate armor.

An attack like chopping through man and armor altogether in one swing wasn’t possible except within novels or mangas.

Usually, if you were to encounter a warrior equipped in plate armor, there was no other method other than either causing him to faint due to the attacks and then finish him off or aim at the gaps in the armor.

The opponents are restrained with the individual defense power of those four and by easily passing this small sword around, someone can stab the enemy. That is likely the division of roles while fighting, Renya conjectured.

Because all four function well as defense, Az can focus on attacking with magic.

“We aren’t something like knights. Thus we don’t fuss over the methods of fighting. Some restrain the enemy and some diminish the numbers of enemies. If you are properly able to do this, there won’t be any kind of problems.” (Az)

Although Rona frowned slightly as the talks turned to knights and so on at this point, Az didn’t become aware of it.

“Renya, the preparations are complete.” (Shion)

Shion called out.

She wore a steel breastplate and a forehead protector *(T/N: like the ones in Naruto)* additionally to her usual miko clothes type of old ceremonial costume.

The outfit was complimented with steel reinforced leather tekkou’s* and boots with steel inlets. Renya ended up suspecting whether she wasn’t somehow even a much more Japanese person than him with her truly Japanese style.

Rona, whose armaments he had seen in the carriage already, stood next to her.

Both of them carried a small backpack on their back.

The contents were such things as medicines, bandages, a water-filled canteen and portable food.

Although it wasn't really needed considering that Renya was there, it didn't mean that they might not fall into an unforeseeable situation ending up being separated from each other.

If they were to only count on Renya's void storage, they would be in real trouble at the time he couldn't use his hands and feet.

After looking at them, Renya took out his equipment from the [Inventory].

It was something simple that was sold in stores, leather and copper armor with tekkous.

Since it would only obstruct his field of view, he didn't feel inclined to wear something like a helmet.

Even though he put on boots as footwear, those were something common without having a reinforcement with something like iron differing from the boots Shion and Rona were wearing.

Only on the shoe sole there was an iron plate inserted to prevent treading something into the sole of his feet.

As a weapon he had the katana he exchanged with Kirie.

When he took that out from his [Inventory] the looks from the surroundings gathered on it.

"What to say? This shape of weapon, I have never seen it before." (Az)

"Isn't the sword blade too thin? Although it has a beautiful shape …" (Shion)

Az and Shion each expressed their opinions.

While thinking something along the lines of *Is that how it appears to you?*, Renya coiled the belt he had procured before leaving the city around his waist and hung the katana there.

He tied the scabbard to the belt with metal fittings. The construction was such that he could disconnect the scabbard from the belt with a strong snap from his fingers at the attached clasp protuberance in times of need.

Although Renya thought that there likely weren't such things as inserted gimmicks for the different types of weapons circulating in this world, he was able to find it surprisingly easily in a regular store.

He heard that in cases such as falling into water while having weapons equipped, there was a necessity to immediately remove them from the clothing.

In preparation for such times, it appears that the sword belts being circulated possessed such a mechanism.

Even though the purpose was different, Renya immediately bought it since its efficiency was plenty sufficient in practical use.

Because it was after purchasing the ingredients, he ended up having to secretly borrow money from Rona as his own capital wasn't enough.

"What will we do about the carriages?" (Renya)

"There shouldn't be any monsters who attack horses if it's this area. It will be fine to leave them as they are tied to the stakes. If we return within roughly 2-3 hours, it will be alright." (Az)

"Is that so? Well then, is everyone done preparing?" (Renya)

As Renya called out to them, each of them nodded.

Seeing Az's party members nodding, Renya turned around into the direction of Az.

There Az nodded as well.

"Oi?" (Renya)

"In this case it goes without saying that you as a swordsman is much more suited as leader than me as a magician." (Az)

"Why?" (Renya)

"Since there is no point in telling you, I won't tell you." (Az)

Az threw out his chest challenging him as to whether he had any complaints.

Is it fine to take this as proof of trust? Or is it fine to take this as forcing a role onto me including all the troubles along with it?

Thinking about it in a positive way that it would make everyone happy, Renya took a single breath and said,

"I understand. I will give the instructions. Please tell me at any time you don't want to follow them." (Renya)

"Understood, is that fine with you guys as well?" (Az)

Az confirmed it with all his party's members,

It didn't seem that they were dissatisfied either. With the same timing four full faced steel helmets nodded vertically.

"Good, then prepare the lights… let's go." (Renya)

He didn't leak his inner feelings whether it was fine to leave the leadership to someone who was traversing a dungeon for the first time in this and the previous life. While dedicating himself to be seen as confident as possible, Renya gave the command to his seven companions.

Translation Notes

* http://cospatio.com/detail/id/00000000076

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>

Chapter 28 – It seems to be the first dungeon, but it is weird somehow

Sa~ We entered the dungeon.

Even if you end up describing it in a single word dungeon, people have various images in relation to that word within their minds. You can't say there is something like a rule set what to imagine, Renya thought.

However, I somehow think they should have an image of it mostly having naked rock surfaces, mud walls, things that resemble a human's hand and formed pathways made out of stone blocks.

That was until I heard a single expression by chance.

Grown living type dungeon.

Renya wasn't able to imagine it.

In the first place a dungeon shouldn't be something living, but saying it grows in depth and width with the passing of months and years? I wonder what the heck is this phenomenon about?

At the very least it isn't a phenomenon happening to an inorganic stone wall.

Therefore, until Renya dived into this dungeon, he pondered whether the interior would be similar to the intestines of a living creature.

If that was the case, his disgust gauge would sky-rocket, but at least he would also somehow understand why it was called living type. However, as he currently tried diving into it, his anticipations were easily betrayed.

Also there was this again, the descending stairway. He didn't grasp why it was there to begin with. As Renya went down and stood inside the dungeon and surveyed the situation of his vicinity, he muttered disappointedly,

"Somehow it is a normal hole." (Renya)

The wall seemed to be a bare mud wall, but it felt strangely solid upon touching.

The surface appeared to be covered with something. Even as he tried out striking it with his fist, it didn't crumble or change its shape.

Measuring it by eye, the normal hole's size was around 3 meters in length and width.

That was the range the torch light could cover. But the room spread out much further ahead.

"What did you expect?" (Shion)

Shion asked besides Renya.

Having formed an united front with Az's group in these circumstances, Renya assigned the increased group of 8 people into 2 as vanguards, 3 as middle guards and 3 as rear guard.

Of course Renya said right away that he would stand as vanguard and announced Shion becoming the second person. This was immediately accepted.

The middle guard had Rona, being in charge of healing, and Az, being in charge of firepower, along one guard.

The remaining guards acted as rear guard.

While starting to walk, Renya gathered the words to explain what he expected.

“No, since you said it is a living-type dungeon, I thought it would be a sort of living creature or something like that… ” (Renya)

“Who would consider to dive into that kind of a dungeon… ?” (Shion)

Seeing Shion’s face twitching in displeasure, Renya thought *That is certainly right*.

No matter how profitable it might me, there wouldn’t be many willing to pass through passages resembling the intestines of a living creature. Those going to dive into such a thing could only be called having a strange taste.

“The passages are created by portions of them crumbling little by little.” (Az)

Az cut into the discussion of the two from the back.

“It isn’t like there is someone digging the tunnels, but little by little the passages are extending. By being able to make branches of those passages the dungeon is capable to grow into a huge structure. If the passage gets too big, it turns into a room. The treasures are placed in there then.” (Az)

“Who puts such things there?” (Renya)

“There are various theories. There are some saying that the monsters put them there while there are others advocating that the core has some kind of method in its deposition. Or it can be said that both options are possible?” (Az)

If you look at it from the dungeon’s side, it will also be troubled by being limitlessly, indiscriminately plundered. But in reverse it will also be a problem if no one comes visiting. Controlling this situation, you can definitely say that the core has an intention, no?

“Az-sensei is quite well-informed.” (Renya)

Looking back over his shoulder, Renya says, in order to tease him. Az glared at Renya with a grim face.

“Though I also think it is nice to chat, don’t forget to keep attention to the surroundings. This isn’t a party of thieves.” (Az)

“Yeah, yeah…” (Renya)

Renya returns his line of sight to the front.

Az exhaled with a face that said “Yare yare.”

Actually Az and Renya are expecting that it won’t become a situation where they need a thief.

One thing is that the dungeon, they are passing through, is young.

And the other thing is that the two parties, which went ahead, have passed through it as well.

Whether the thieves, who passed through here before, have planted traps on the main pathway or not is something they are investigating while they advance. But if there are traps, whether the leading groups neutralized them or didn't notice them as they weren't caught in them, either option has a high probability.

"Isn't it weird for grown dungeon passages to have traps?" (Renya)

"I don't know that, you have to ask the core about it." (Az)

Az seems to want to say that it can't be helped since the traps are there.

It is indispensable to understand that this is something like theory turning into reality.

"Both of you, something resembling a room can be seen ahead." (Rona)

Due to Rona's voice, the mood becomes tense.

Quickly switching over, as you would expect from people working as adventurers, I suppose , Renya is the only person care-freely concerned about such things, but his left hand warily reached out to his katana.

"Room?" (Renya)

"If the passage becomes wide, it turns into a room? There is no door though." (Shion)

The one who answered is Shion.

"… although there isn't a presence of living things?" (Renya)

"You know?" (Shion)

"Vaguely, yeah." (Renya)

The passage abruptly became wide and an open space appeared.

The two vanguards cautiously enter and survey the vicinity attentively.

Although Shion has her weapon already taken out, Renya hasn't drawn his katana.

The reason for that can be explained that the action of drawing itself is connected to an attack. A katana is something to be drawn for the sake of killing. His intuition tells him that it isn't something you swing around while walking. He has such feeling stored somewhere within his mind.

"There is no one here?" (Shion)

Shion's voice sounds as if she is confirming that.

While replying with a nod, Renya, looking at a point on the floor, discovered something like a stain.

As the light of the torch is swaying, he can't accurately see the surface of the floor.

If he brings the fire closer, its composition might change due to the heat as well.

I see, I have practised the spell for such occasions, while comprehending that, Renya cast the spell close to that stain.

"What is it?" (Az)

Az noticed that that light was suddenly emitted from the air close to the floor. The stain below that became visible.

Even though the ground of the floor was bare, that part of the floor obviously had an unusual color.

“Though it has become considerable pale, it is blood, no?” (Renya)

“Probably. Someone was injured here … or a monster was defeated here, right?” (Az)

Even if you say the stain became pale, it reached a span of around the length of stretching both arms.

In that case to produce such a size of a stain, the degree of bleeding…

“I think, if it’s an injury, it is a dangerous amount of blood.” (Renya)

“Since the dungeon has ended up absorbing the majority, we don’t know whether it is a person or a monster.” (Az)

Realizing that he heard somehow disturbing words, Renya ends up staring at Az’s face. But Az was making an unconcerned face as he said this.

“Is it the first time that you see this?” (Az)

“Ah, will absorbing it in this way turn into growth strength… ?” (Renya)

“That’s right. With the passage of time blood and corpses will vanish.” (Az)

Although he heard such story, the received impact is really different when you actually witness it.

Once again I realize that I came to a completely different place than my original world, Renya thought. But the other members seem to have perceived this shock in a different meaning.

“Renya, should we return temporarily?” (Shion)

Shion calls out to him in a voice filled with worry.

Without even having a slight trembling as she stared at the stain on the floor, she placed her hand on Renya’s shoulder.

“Now that I think about it, it is Renya’s first time experiencing this. It is inevitable that you are receiving a shock. We can return once and come back tomorrow to try again as well…” (Shion)

“Nn? Ah, I am alright. I was only surprised. I haven’t particularly received a shock.” (Renya)

Hitting Shion’s shoulder with a *pon pon*, he is appealing to the other members, who are watching his state carefully, by lightly laughing showing his lack of concern over this matter.

While appealing, because he is the leader, he changes the atmosphere in the party by timing and his facial expression. Though he is thinking that this is also quite difficult.

“Is that so? It’s fine if you are alright, but please tell me if there is anything.” (Shion)

“I am happy about you worrying about me, Shion. But I am fine.” (Renya)

Renya says while keeping his tone of voice as kind as possible. Did Shion understand it at last? Separating her hand somewhat reluctantly from Renya’s shoulder, she once again begins to watch the surroundings having her weapon prepared.

They don’t understand whether it was a monster or a human on the floor, but because of the matter of there being a

blood-like stain there, Renya's group knew that something had happened at this place.

And they also perceived that this conjecture was connected with a battle most likely.

"There is something here after all." (Renya)

"That's only natural, this is a dungeon." (Az)

As if saying "What are you talking about at this late point in time?" Az returns a wry smile.

"For now let's go ahead, ok? Only this much is a weak reason for making an escape, right?" (Az)

"It should be okay, if the corpse has already disappeared into the ground." (Renya)

Az and Renya didn't plan to capture the entire dungeon any more.

However, they didn't think that for the completion of the request it would be reasonable to just report this fact or that only this level of evidence would be enough.

"It is the first time for me to travelling a dungeon this half-heartedly…" (Shion)

Although Shion raises her voice as if feeling worn-out for some reason, there was no reply from the other party members except bitter smiles.

Everyone should be aware of the strength of the parties that went ahead. They fully knew that it was a situation about which they couldn't do anything if those parties don't return in the end.

"Renya" (Az)

Holding a torch, Az, standing in the vicinity of the only exit of this room, addressed Renya.

"Beyond this point… there is a door." (Az)

"Ha?" (Renya)

"If you leave this room, there is a door right away." (Az)

Being beckoned to come to Az's side, looking in the direction Az's finger pointed, past the the exit of the room, where Renya's group is in, there was a short passage. As it was a distance the light of the torch, standing at the exit, barely reached, a dull grey door was visible.

With a size of the entire passage being around 3 meters in length and width, although there was a door, being the type of double door which opens from the middle, it was somewhat strange.

"Hey, is it normal for a young dungeon to have such splendid door installed?" (Renya)

"If it's a grown dungeon, there will be such installations made by monsters, but… With the youth of this dungeon, it is impossible. In the first place, the path we took was direct and unforked, right? The room, we are currently in, is the first one. For such dungeon to have such door for its second room, that's plainly odd." (Az)

"Do the leading parties have this information as well?" (Renya)

"I have no doubt that Hartz' party knows about it… I don't care about dyed-brown-hairs party." (Az)

Az's reaction was such that Renya wanted to ask whether he had any very bad memories with harem parties, but now wasn't the time for that.

Gathering everyone at the side of the room's entrance, Renya stated clearly,

"Let's go back." (Renya)

""""""""Eh?"""""""" (The others)

Excluding Renya, all present reacted like that.

Without caring about it, Renya continues.

"This is dangerous. There is definitely something here. Leaving this room, there is a door right away, but no matter how you think about it, it is risky to open that door. My intuition is telling me this." (Renya)

Having the skill to sense danger, Renya isn't able to do anything about it any more, even if he regrets to have obtained it. It didn't seem that there was someone amongst this party who had such ability though.

"It's a point I want to agree with, but…" (Az)

Az says while collecting his thoughts.

"I also consider this to be strange. But we won't be able to explain adequately to the guild why we returned after having reached the door." (Az)

"Hasn't it also the possibility of being a death trap as soon as you open it?" (Renya)

"It is strange that there is such door, but it would be even weirder if there was such a trap." (Az)

"Renya, there won't even be any meaning in accepting the request, if we return because it was suspicious without investigating anything. Even the guild won't be able to do anything but inflict a heavy penalty upon us." (Shion)

Due to Az's and Shion's words, Renya ends up pondering about it.

I wonder if this is the difference of not having self-awareness of being an adventurer from this area?

Of course Renya is considering that he has no self-consciousness about being an adventurer himself.

For this reason, he has only considered the matter with the guild as "It's fine either way." Feeling a danger beyond expectation currently, he chose to withdraw without hesitation.

But it appears as if that is a difficult suggestion for Az and Shion, who seem to have self-awareness as adventurers, to accept.

"I have a hunch that it will be our end, if we open that door, you know… ?" (Renya)

"If that's the case, let's do it like this, Renya." (Az)

Az, probably unable to watch the indecisive Renya, made a single suggestion.

"What do you say about all of us being the vanguards and Renya's group being responsible of backing us up?" (Az)

"No, that is…" (Renya)

"No matter what Renya says, we will try to open that door. Going back without doing this, we won't be able to return to our occupation as adventurers. If Renya refuses to act as backup, we will continue to investigate by only ourselves." (Az)

“Nuu…” (Renya)

“Renya. You are our leader, so we will follow your decision. But if that means to abandon Az’s group here and turn back… I don’t think that would be a very admirable deed.” (Shion)

“Guu…” (Renya)

Renya had no words in return.

Certainly, getting results from the job, we took up, will become our first assessment in itself. Currently I am doing nothing but insisting on abandoning that.

But my feeling also definitely tells me that there is danger lurking beyond that door.

Even though he is understanding that, because Az’s party will be going first, Renya didn’t seem to be able to accept having an acquaintance storming into a place he feels to be dangerous.

“Understood. Let’s advance ahead.” (Renya)

In the end there is no other option but to go forward seeing that he has no arguments to persuade the members otherwise.

Having judged like this, Renya sighed dropping his shoulders.

“However, I will be the only one to open that door. Shion and Rona will guard Az. The remaining four will take care of guarding our rear.” (Renya)

“Renya?!” (Shion)

As Shion raised a scream holding him back with her hands, Renya laughed feebly.

“I still think that we shouldn’t proceed past this point. Although I am thinking that, seeing that I won’t be able to persuade you guys, there is no other way. If that’s the case, I will examine whether it is dangerous to open it. There is no other method to chose except this one.” (Renya)

“Renya, I already told you that we would be the vanguard…” (Az)

“That’s not allowed.” (Renya)

Renya rejects Az’s suggestion.

“I am thinking that beyond that door a danger is lurking making it a matter of life and death. Though I am judging so, I can’t tell you guys to not go there. Therefore it will be me who will enter that place. If you can’t accept this, I want you to approve of going back.” (Renya)

Telling them straight out that he won’t yield on this point, Renya is waiting for the reply of the party members.

<– Previous Chapter | Next Chapter –>